

KMKX FFC Reports Q4, 2022

A man from Covelo's been arrested for Domestic Violence after an altercation with his girlfriend. Deputies reported to a home September 23rd after a woman was yelling. Patrick Dennis says he and his partner had been drinking and when they got home, they got into an argument. Deputies say it got physical and Dennis took the woman's phone and tossed it on the roof. He was arrested for 10/03/22 domestic violence battery and held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A massive settlement has been reached with PG&E and former executives for the 2017 North Bay firestorm along with the 2018 Camp Fire. Former officers and directors of the company were taken to court by a victim trust who claimed the fires were directly caused by the former executives' work at the company. The trust announced last week they had finalized the \$117 million dollar settlement. You may recall back in 2017 fires ignited after power lines owned by the utility company went down. The fires in Napa, Sonoma, Humboldt, Butte and Mendocino counties killed 19 people. Then there was the massive Camp Fire in Butte County the following year, also caused by PG&E equipment, killing 85 people. A man from Covelo accused of disobeying a court order and terrorizing a couple of women. But Deputies couldn't get to the home right away after several emergency calls from Willits and Covelo. When Deputies got ahold of the caller, they said the suspect had left the home. They later found Fox Blue Hoaglin came to the person's property even though they had a tribal court order against him. They say he had a hatchet and was told to leave but swung it at at least one person. Deputies found him in a neighbor's yard, trying to run into their shed. He was taken down and booked into jail for assault with a deadly weapon and held on \$30,000.00 bail.

A juvenile has been found after reports they escaped the Ukiah Juvenile Hall. It was reported over the weekend a white male in a gray sweatshirt and green long sleeve shirt with "Mendocino County" on the back was on the run near the Ukiah golf course. A nixle alert went out to alert anyone who may have seen him, or anything suspicious to call police or the Sheriff's Dept. But he was found and the nixle alert was canceled.

A homeless advocate in the Ukiah area is being accused of sexually assaulting former colleagues. Mendo Fever reports Tony Marsh is being sued by former co-workers who say they worked under him at Manzanita Service Incorporated and after they reported the abuse to supervisors, they lost their jobs. The company has merged with another called Tapestry Family Services in Mendocino County. There are three lawsuits against the company and Marsh, the former employee's direct supervisor at the time. They all say he continued to proposition them and inappropriately touched them sexually. One claimed there was sexual battery by Marsh, another said she was groped. All of the complaints, the women say, were met with hostility.

A surfer has been attacked by a shark at Centerville Beach near Ferndale. The Volunteer Fire Dept responded and reportedly took the 31-year-old victim to a hospital. Kym Kemp reports it's the latest shark attack in Humboldt County, but the last was two years ago in Shelter Cove. That time it was a kayaker who got away as the shark chewed his kayak. The same year, in May of 2020, a shark bit another kayak, that sank. Back in 2018, a woman had a small bite at Trinidad Beach. And a decade ago, another surfer was bitten off the North Jetty and had to have surgery. A man in Willits has been arrested after his wife reported her husband was threatening her with a machete. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. says they went to a home Friday September 23rd where they learned Lewis Perll was chasing the victim with the machete, and a sledgehammer in their home. The woman told Deputies she was able to escape and Perll stayed in the home. He also had a felony warrant for his arrest from Santa Clara County and a misdemeanor warrant out of Santa Cruz, plus he was on formal probation in another county, so he was arrested for strangling the woman and chasing her with weapons. Crisis negotiators had to lure him out as he apparently also had a pellet gun on him. He's held without bail.

A car accident brought out medics to State Route 20 in Mendocino County. The car crash ended with a black car overturning and landing on its roof. The CHP reported a truck and the black car crashed with the black car 100 feet down an embankment and someone trapped inside. They were able to get the victim out and they were airlifted to a hospital after being examined locally.

Sheet1

Ever gotten a ticket for jaywalking. It can't happen anymore in California. The Governor has signed the bill "Freedom to Walk" into law. Assemblyman Phil Ting's bill starts in January. It comes after activists had fought against jaywalking rules which they claimed had affected more marginalized or low-income residents than anyone else. So, a pedestrian can legally cross a street out of designated intersection for the first time in nearly a century.

Jaywalking laws went into effect back in the 1930s. Until January pedestrians might still incur a fine or get a citation for crossing outside a marked crosswalk or moving across the street while a signal is still in play.

As many of us have returned to before times, health officials are warning about subvariants of COVID19 potential emerging ahead of cold temperatures and indoor activities. The coronavirus medical advisor to the White House, Dr. Anthony Fauci says it's far too early to know what could happen, but as we head into late fall and winter, it's probable there will be a new variant. There are none so far documented in Calif. or in the country, but some health experts say there could be another super-spreading subvariant as people gather indoors when the weather gets cold. New York has been seeing more cases, but Calif. has been seeing a steady decline since mid-summer.

Reports of threats to Pomolita Middle School on social media are apparently nothing to be concerned about. The Ukiah Police Department says after an investigation of an 11 year old, they found they had no access to weapons. Parents were told last Wednesday by the Pomolita Principal that there was a "concerning media post made by a student." He says they immediately called police and after an investigation, they found it was not believable, but to err on the side of caution, they will be beefing police presence at the school. After questions about preparation for potential serious threats, the Superintendent shared a list of "major things we do to help ensure safe schools" to the Daily Journal.

Two juveniles have been caught just after they escaped from the Mendocino County Juvenile Detention Center. On Sunday the Sheriff's Office got wind of the escape. The pair were working in the garden at the facility but climbed a huge fence that had razor wire on top. Deputies, Ukiah cops and officers from the Mendocino County Probation Department went to the scene and quickly found one of them, a female escapee. She had to be taken to a hospital to be treated for injuries from the escape. Then the nixle alert went out, which we reported yesterday, on the male escapee. He was chased in the area of Hazel Avenue in Ukiah and caught. The two may face new charges for escaping

10/04/22 custody.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors are reportedly considering items in closed session regarding cannabis. The closed session is around 2:30pm and they are expected to be behind closed doors for four hours. This is reportedly about Equity Program limitations and recommendations. The Board is also hearing the latest on the Mental Health Treatment Act, will direct the Executive Office for discussion and possible action including introduction and waiving of the first reading of an ordinance pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of the CEO and replacing county code references to “health and human services agency” with the departments of behavioral health & recovery services, public health and/or social services.

The Lake County Registrar of Voters Office is reminding about the upcoming General Election on November 8th. They’re sending out the vote-by-mail ballots no later than next Monday, October 10th, with supplemental mailings to follow for newly registered or re-registered voters. They also say not to forget to keep your voter registration information up to date. To make sure you get your ballot on time, verify with the Registrar of Voters your most up-to-date information. If there are errors, you may have to re-register, which you can do online at registertovote.ca.gov or by calling (707) 263-2372 and requesting a voter registration form be mailed to you.

Sheriff’s Deputies on the scene in Willits after reports of a shooting. The call to 911 yesterday morning, according to Mendo Fever, that a man had shot his son three times. There were no injuries though. The news site reports the shooter used a pistol, then ran into the woods. His son told police dispatch the man was still making threats but got rid of his gun. The man was eventually detained along with his son and another person while police tried to get to the bottom of what perpetuated the incident.

A survey is being conducted for the Mendocino National Forest for the next year. Starting this Friday and continuing through Sept. 30th, 2023, the public will see contractors who are conducting the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) survey at recreational sites and along Forest Service roads. You may encounter the guides in orange vests that say “Traffic Survey Ahead.” They will use the information they get on the surveys for forest planning and tourism. Some of the questions they’re reportedly asking include: Where you recreated on the forest, How many people traveled with you, How long you were on the forest, What other recreation sites you visited while on the forest, and How satisfied you are with the facilities and services provided.

The Governor has signed a bill into law to try to quell the amount of disinformation spread by doctors about COVID19. The bill by Assemblyman Evan Low of Campbell and co-sponsored by the California Medical Association looks to curb the fake news they say is often perpetuated on social media, for instance, promoting untested or ineffective treatments and even cures, at the same time, calling into question the effectiveness of face masks and vaccines. Newsom says it’s only going to apply to “egregious instances” where someone acts with malicious intent or deviates from the required standard of care while talking to a patient in their care.

Sheet1

Congressman Mike Thompson has announced the application period for the Department of Education is open for a couple of grant programs related to mental health services for students and youngsters. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is gun violence prevention legislation Thompson championed. The first of the two grants is for School-Based Mental Health Services for mental health professionals with credentials. And the second, the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration (MHSP) grant is so school districts can hire more on campus mental healthcare providers in higher-need districts.

The drought continues, with the last three years some of the driest in history. The state says it's preparing for the extreme drought conditions to persist. The official water year ended last Friday. Last October had record rainfall, but then from January-to-March, it was the driest in about 100 years. The drought manager for the state Department of Water Resources and the state's climatologist spoke on the latest report last week. The US Drought Monitor records most of the state in severe or extreme drought with the worst conditions in the Central Valley where a lot of the country's fruits, vegetables and nuts are grown.

A new study says there are some major earthquake faults in the San Francisco Bay Area that could trigger the big one. We've heard this before, but a geologist with the USGS says the San Andreas and the Hayward are fairly well known, but most residents don't even know the Foothill Thrust Belt faults deep beneath the Silicon Valley are there. Researchers at Stanford say they could potentially set off a magnitude 6.9 earthquake every 250 to 300 years. The Foothill Thrust Belt has two main thrust faults from south of Gilroy past Palo Alto. The study's main author says faults can "creep" though, and never trigger an earthquake or they can store all of that energy up and spark a massive earthquake. Even a 6.5 could happen each 100 to 150 years.

The Governor has signed a new law that the Mendocino County DA says it's a bait and switch to add two years onto his term that he's against. The DA's Facebook page says it would also add an additional two years to the Sheriff's term. The bill grabbed the support of Assemblyman Jim Wood and Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire. The new law makes it mandatory that a one-time extension be added to all DA's and Sheriff's in the state who were elected in 2022. They would have a six year term ending in 2028. The bill was first proposed last year, but got carried to this legislative session. Statewide associations who represent district attorneys and sheriffs opposed the bill.

A man from Escondido has crashed near Kelseyville and had major injuries. Lake Co News reports the car accident happened early Sunday morning on Highway 175 with 52 year old Richard Riley being airlifted for treatment out of the county. The California Highway Patrol reports Riley was headed east alone in a 2019 Land Rover Discovery and for an unknown reason drifted off the road and hit a parked car, then went out of control, hit some trees and brush and stopped in a creek bed. The incident was reported as a car 40 feet off the road, down a cliff, and that the driver was trapped and unconscious. He was pulled out of the vehicle by firefighters and taken for treatment of major injuries in Vacaville.

A young man from Ukiah has been sent to jail in connection to the murder of a teen. The Sheriff's Office reports getting a call last Thursday to someone in Laytonville who reported Aaron Vossler was missing for three days. He had been with another man headed to Ukiah but never came home. Deputies say they heard rumors the 18-year-old may have been the victim of a crime, then found someone who had seen Vossler last. They told Deputies Vossler was with 20-year-old Christopher Hill. They found him in Potter Valley and say they found evidence of a possible violent crime in his car and searched it, and the area, finding a body in a shallow grave. Hill was booked on murder charges. The 10/05/22 remains were identified as being Vossler's.

A big turnout for the inaugural Northern California Tribal Policy Summit on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. The Yurok Tribe, the largest Native American tribe in Calif., was the host. Federal, state, and local representatives were there discussing how to tackle human trafficking and interjurisdictional criminal justice issues as they relate to #MMIW. Those in attendance are calling for law enforcement, legislators, philanthropists and advocates to work together on the issue, and address the issue of underrepresentation in the justice system and other issues including how to help survivors heal. Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblyman Jim Wood and Congressman Jared Huffman were all there.

It was the last day to either veto, sign legislation or let it become law automatically for the 2022 legislative session. And Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) reported most of the bills he brought forward this session are law. Last Friday was the last day the Governor had power of the pen for this session. Wood said that as a healthcare provider for 3 decades and the chair of the Assembly Health Committee the last several years, many of his bills were brought forward to make health care more affordable and accessible. Some included, creating the Office of Health Care Affordability; helping bring a nonresidential center for protection from wildfires; get broadband mapping to the California Public Utilities Commission; and allowing Tribal members to have the right per their culture to wait ten days to 21 days to name their newborns.

The City of Ukiah's Planning Commission has heard from police and the fire dept. about a recent rise in calls for help from the homeless shelter. Ukiah Police and the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority's report by staff to the commission last week showed there had been 85 calls for service to police between February and August which was a 30-percent increase over the previous six-months, when there were 60 calls. There was a rise in calls to firefighters too, 33 in the latest reporting period, compared to 22 calls previously, that was a 33% rise. The Community Development Director says he spoke to the police and fire chiefs who said it may have been because it was summer time, and very hot, and they weren't concerned.

The Ukiah Skate Park is hosting a shindig that could bring out the crowds. This Saturday, October 8th Ambassador Skateboards Sacramento is bringing their Pro Skate Exhibition to the Ukiah Skate Park on Low Gap Road from 4 – 8pm. The free event will feature the "best trick competition" along with free food, music and prizes. It's all sponsored by Body Builders, Crossroads Church and City of Ukiah.

Sheet1

A career fair is coming to Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Tomorrow from 11:30am – 5pm job seekers can visit booths to hear about open clinical and non-clinical positions including nurses, patient access representatives, medical assistants, housekeepers, customer care associates, and technicians. The company says they offer competitive wages, exceptional benefits and a connection to purpose. You must wear a face mask and practice social distancing to attend.

For more information, contact Jolee White (707-963-6588, whitej@ah.org) or visit

<http://www.adventisthealth.org/careers>.

Insurance carriers in Calif. working with Medicaid in a different way may mean some of the most frail may have to switch providers. The new statewide contracting competition for Medi-Cal means commercial managed-care plans have rebid for their contracts which will require the providers to offer new benefits. They will also have new rules to follow for care. It could impact nearly 2 million of California's poorest as Medicaid is revamped. A handful of insurers, including Health Net and Blue Shield of California may be about to lose their Medi-Cal contracts.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has given the greenlight to hire an engineering firm to design a way to take out gravel and sediment that has built up around the levee channels near Upper Lake. The county's water resources director went to the board as they sat as the Watershed Protection District Board of Directors to waive formal bidding to get a \$45,000 agreement going with a contractor for the Clover Creek Bypass Gravel Removal Project. The same company did the Middle Creek Flood Control Feasibility Study. The Upper Lake levees will not apparently provide protection for a 100 year flood event.

It might be a good time to go get a city job in Clearlake as the City Council looks at helping workers buy homes. The council is considering the plan tomorrow night for a homebuyer assistance program for city employees. Lake Co News reports the workshop will be just before the regular city council meeting at City Hall. The city manager's report on the matter notes how hard it is to recruit and retain high performing and committed employees. He says home ownership turns out to be a main incentive to keep employees, but local housing is still a challenger and owning a home is getting more and more expensive.

There's hundreds of millions of more dollars available for folks who need help with their utility bills. The latest data on assistance programs shows the state of Calif. distributed \$1.4 billion to help 2.2 million households during the height of the pandemic. The Governor has announced he's set aside another \$1.4 billion to pay overdue utility bills for those who may still be challenged to pay the bills. \$1.2 billion of it will go to residential electric utilities through the Department of Community Services and Development to keep future costs down, \$200 million for water and wastewater and \$116 million of federal money will also go to water and wastewater.

Sheet1

Recent graduates across the state of Calif. have an opportunity to join the Forest Service in Science Technology Engineering and Math. They have positions related to engineering, engineering technicians, land surveying, geographic information systems (GIS), and ecology. They are hiring now for the 18 national forests throughout the state. Applications became available yesterday and the period continues through next Thursday, Oct. 13th at <http://www.usajobs.gov>. There are also Forest Service recruiters at the 2022 Women of Color in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Conference occurring in Detroit, Mich. Tomorrow through Saturday.

It's the eve of the next 100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County Gathering. Tomorrow night from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Nelson Vineyards and Winery three nonprofits will be on hand. They have five minutes to present, then they can take questions. The winner with the most votes gets as much as \$10,000. The inclusive all-volunteer group says all are welcome tomorrow. You have to pledge \$100 first though on the 100+ Mendocino Women Grapevine website via <https://100strongmendo.com>. They've already raised over seven thousand dollars.

The Mendocino County Sheriff says he had to shut down a "prison monastery" program at the jail related to sexual meditation. The organization known as Unconditional Freedom was reportedly involved with an organization called OneTaste and the Institute of OM Foundation. The Sheriff says he was worried inmates may fall prey to the supposed spiritual curriculum created by a woman who wrote a book called "The Art of Soulmaking". It also involved a penpal program. The Sheriff found one of the volunteers also worked at Juvenile Hall but was never alone with inmates or involved them. A BBC report said the organizations were like cults and the people leading were accused of abusive and controlling behavior tied to making money from sex.

10/06/22

Caltrans is looking at locations for better safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Caltrans Active Transportation Plans maps areas online on a special website with links showing current conditions and areas where there could be improvements. The state budget has over one billion dollars for creating safer and more connected walking and biking paths, so folks don't have to drive that much. That's a way to reduce pollution from the transportation sector. The new plans add to the Caltrans Active Transportation Plan goals from the 2017 State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Toward an Active California, which also looked to established transit safety, mobility, preservation, and equity.

For more information on Caltrans Active Transportation Plans, visit catplan.org.

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is looking at ways to better transportation needs for Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland – five inland rural communities with no public transit services. The Council is inviting residents of those communities to fill out a 5-minute E-Survey. Staffers say this is the second round of public comment they're getting after several community workshops back in August. Folks who fill out the survey get a chance to be entered in a drawing for one of five \$100 gift cards. Find the survey at: bit.ly/MCOGMobility.

Sheet1

The Governor has created a new state agency to oversee several state departments all tasked with ridding the state of illegal cannabis operations and transnational criminal organizations. The “Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce” actually launched over the summer. It’s co-chaired by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The coordination of the two agencies is through the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and its Homeland Security Division. The head of the Dept. of Cannabis Control says the state’s committed to fighting illicit commercial cannabis activity. The new team will be investigating, removing and reclaiming illegal grow sites, and closing illegal manufacturing, distribution and retail operations. They will also arrest or lockup offenders and traffickers.

State Parks workers have been out along the shoreline in Clear Lake clearing away old tires and other trash. The public safety, natural resources and maintenance department staff members had help from a Clear Lake State Park lifeguard too at Molesworth Beach, that’s at the southernmost side of the lake in the boundaries of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The Supervising Ranger says people have been using tires as dock fenders for years and as the docks break down, the tires float around. There’s not a lot else in the area except for walking trails that lead to Cache Creek and Clear Lake.

State water officials say we’re in for another dry winter. The weather forecasts available now show a slightly better water year, but below average just the same. The California Department of Water Resources put out the water year report last week. Believe it or not the 2022 water year was wetter than 2021. But last November was the third warmest on record. December was pretty wet, with record snowfall in sections of the Sierras. We had an average of 76% rainfall for 2022.

Talk about the climate at the latest Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting. They covered possible grant funding under the Regional Climate Collaboratives program and putting together a new partnership agreement for the Climate Safe Lake Project. The board looked at a grant application for the California Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Program to build climate resiliency. The Climate Safe Lake Project would fold together plans, funds, and committees.

The National Night Out event is back after the lockdowns triggered a two year break. On Tuesday in Library Park, the family friendly event included free snacks and a raffle by the Lakeport Police Department who handed out more than 90 prizes including bikes, Razor scooters, helmets, fishing poles with tackle boxes, backpacks, gift cards, and a kayak. It’s an event for the public to mingle with law enforcement. It was presented by the Lakeport Police Department as they had in the past each year on the first Tuesday of October. The event happens nationwide as a community-builder between police and their communities.

Another of Assemblyman Jim Wood's bills has become law. The Governor signed the latest to require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to map out broadband access at the local level. It would show all access to the state agency at the "household level". Per Wood, that will include local addresses who can access service, especially in rural, low-income and tribal communities. He also says most providers complied with, then provided the CPUC all needed data. But he says some companies who serve bigger chunks of the public did not help. Wood's legislation looks to build on past broadband expansion work, with improved maps to identify the level of broadband access statewide.

An inmate at a prison in California has been killed after other inmates attacked him in a yard. The prison in Sacramento was the murder scene for 36-year-old Felipe Rodriguez. Police say one of his killers was from Sonoma County, Selso Orozco. He along with Mike Calderon of Los Angeles County are blamed for the murder after correctional officers found two weapons and fingered the men as the attackers. Orozco was from Rohnert Park and was sentenced a few years ago to 23 years for robbery, child endangerment and weapons possession by a felon. Calderon was serving a life sentence without parole for murder and Rodriguez was sentenced for a carjacking back in 2015 to nine years. Then he was sentenced while in custody to a life term for an attempted murder, then again for multiple life terms for fatal kidnapping for ransom, extortion and causing great bodily injury.

Another lawsuit has reportedly been filed against energy giant, Pacific Gas & Electric. The second in relation to the massive Mosquito Fire that burned in Placer and El Dorado counties. The lawsuit was filed on September 29th connected to property losses and damage that impacted residents. Thousands had to evacuate the inferno. The first lawsuit was filed September 23rd for "poorly maintained utility infrastructure."
10/07/22

Inmates in Vacaville are being hailed as heroes after coming to the rescue of a woman stabbed on a bike trail. A cleaning crew and the correctional officer with them saw a 33-year-old woman walking her dog and get attacked for no reason. The inmates saw the incident then jumped into action, providing aid until first responders arrived. The victim is in stable condition. An 18-year-old suspect was arrested for attempted murder.

Two people have been injured after a car crash on Highway 1 near Gualala. The California Highway Patrol reports a woman from Point Arena in a 1999 Dodge 2500 full-size pick-up was driving south on the highway Tuesday morning and for some reason she drifted west, and when trying to correct the truck, she side-swiped a 2016 Kia Sorento SUV headed north. The driver of that car, a 72-year-old woman from Gualala hit a dirt embankment, but the truck driver crashed into a guardrail, overturned and landed on its roof. The truck driver had major injuries and the Kia driver had moderate injuries. The CHP says they're investigating but do not consider drugs or alcohol as factors.

Sheet1

The latest report on homelessness in Calif. has been released, showing thousands more after the pandemic. 22,500 more Californians were homeless over the last three years for a total of nearly 174,000. CalMatters reports the federal government's point-in-time count was the first since 2019. Those who track the unsheltered say the rise was probably because so many people lost their jobs during the beginning of the pandemic and the housing crisis has not helped. But the analysis also showed homelessness grew around the same rate it had been over the last several years, but it could have been worse because California had rent and mortgage help and stimulus checks from the federal government.

Homecoming week is coming to a close in Ukiah. Ukiah High had the final lunchtime spirit rally yesterday to cap off Homecoming Week 2022. Pictures can be seen on the Daily Journal website of students dancing and singing along. This year's Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned today. There's also a parade this afternoon, so be cautious if you need to get somewhere, the streets may be clogged around the High School as school lets out. They're leaving the high school on Low Gap Road at 3:30 p.m. The school is live streaming some of the events.

The Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk Recorder says all general election mail in ballots to active registered voters are about to go out. Next Tuesday the November 8th ballots are leaving their office and should take about 5-7 days to get to you. As a reminder, if you don't receive your ballot within one week, to please call their office for a replacement ballot. If you have moved since the last election, please re-register. They also sent out sample ballots separately from another office, so those should arrive soon too. THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 24th. If you need to register before then, or re-register, visit <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

It's the fifteenth-year anniversary for the Adopt-A-Fifth-Grader program from the Mendocino College Foundation. They offer scholarships to fifth grade students in Lake and Mendocino Counties with awards by individual donors, families, service clubs and local businesses each giving \$700 to "adopt" a fifth-grade student. The foundation helps invest the money to grow it over the next seven years into a \$1,000 scholarship as the student graduates from high school. So far over 800 students have received one of the scholarships and 24 elementary schools in the Mendocino-Lake Community College District have taken part.

Cal Fire is conducting a prescribed burn on state owned property in the Howard Forest. The burn today through the weekend in Willits will send smoke into the sky. They're doing it to promote natural regeneration, enhance wildlife habitat, protect watershed values and help provide training for fire personnel. They remind that fires are essential for the environment in fire-dependent ecosystems, like California wildlands. But after more than a century of fire suppression that has meant wildlands, woodlands and rangelands cannot withstand normal droughts, insect outbreaks or wildfires. So the purpose of any fuel reduction project is to change the size and composition of fuels in the forest, to create a break in fuel continuity.

For information on how to create Defensible Space, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit

<http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org>.

Money's leaving the state and getting into the hands of everyday Californians as Middle Class Tax Refund payments. The refunds of up to \$1,050 are for millions of eligible Californians. The Governor said California is doing this to put money back into your pockets. The refunds are to help families pay for gas and groceries during these expensive times. The payments will be from \$400 to \$1,050 for couples filing jointly and \$200 to \$700 for individuals depending on their income and whether they claimed a dependent on their taxes. They're sending out 18 million payments for as many as 23 million Californians.

Some water companies in California have offered to cut the amount of water they're taking from the Colorado River. They've apparently been negotiating for several months. The water agencies have written to federal agencies to reduce California's water intake by 400,000 acre-feet annually until 2026. That's about 9% of the river's water the state of California has been entitled to under senior rights. The water mostly travels to the Imperial Irrigation District, and serves almost a half million acres of farmland. The Metropolitan Water District, Coachella Valley Water District and the Palo Verde Irrigation District also signed on to the deal.

An aircraft accident has been reported in Northern Mendocino. Mendo Fever reports hearing on the scanner that first responders were on the scene about a mile north of Bell Springs Road due to a power hang glider crash landing. The news site reported the glider had tried an emergency landing on Highway 101 but went off the side of the road. The pilot was rescued and reported to be uninjured. They were taken to Laytonville to pick up a trailer to take the downed aircraft from the accident scene. This all caused the northbound lane of the highway to be closed so first responders could arrive between Leggett and Laytonville.

Fire restrictions have been eased by the Bureau of Land Management on public lands in Humboldt, Mendocino, Del Norte, Trinity, Shasta, Butte, Tehama and Siskiyou counties. It means campfires can start again, with permits, if it's outside a campground. You can find those online. The head of the BLM Northern Calif. District says even though there has been some rain, to please be careful with fire. They should never be lit on windy days and should be fully extinguished by campers before they leave their campsite. There are still fire restrictions on all BLM-managed public lands in the state, that also applies to fireworks.

Details on the year-round restrictions are available here:
<https://on.doi.gov/3LVAUio>.

More information about use of fire on public lands is available from the BLM Arcata Field Office, 707-825-2300, or the Redding Field Office, 530 224-2100.

Fishing licenses will soon be for sale by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) all year round. The 365-day fishing licenses go up for sale November 15th for next year. The 2023 fishing license will take effect January 1st of 2023 and last the entire year. And that are purchased on or after January 1st are effective from the date of purchase for a continuous 365 days. It comes after Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) introduced a bill last year for the full 365 days license from date of purchase. He said it will encourage more people to fish and increase fishing license revenue too.

The Governor has approved a switch back to a less expensive winter blend of gasoline. It's lowered prices some, but some experts say it won't help the state as it continues to reach crisis levels. The average price is over \$6/gallon. AAA reports that's around 70% higher than the national average. Officials have been warning time and time again that the unique blend of gasoline could one day become susceptible to supply shortages and price increases. Some experts say if the state had a gasoline reserve it could ease the price spikes we've been experiencing. There have been other ideas too such as building more refineries or a new pipeline to California, but that's against the Governor's goals to get us off fossil fuels entirely. Newsom's administration is blaming oil and gas companies from ripping off Californians.

A federal grant will be used by the California Highway Patrol over a year's time to try to save the number of motorcyclists killed or injured in crashes. The Get Educated and Ride Safe, or GEARS grant looks to educate and put more officers on the street across the state until the end of September in 2023. There were almost 7,100 crashes with motorcycles from Oct. 1st, 2020, to Sept. 30th of 2021. In those crashes, 354 riders died and another 6,400 were injured; which was an increase of 3% over the previous 12 months. The CHP Commissioner says "motorcycle riders are statistically more likely to be injured or killed when involved in a crash." She says they're determined to help riders get to their destinations safely by using enforcement and nonenforcement strategies, "including education and community engagement, to target the leading causes of traffic deaths."

The Mendocino County Public Health Office is reminding they have the latest COVID19 booster available. The so-called "bivalent" will be accessible at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah for all residents every Friday afternoon. They will have both the Pfizer and Moderna versions of the booster, which is aimed at fighting both the original or mother virus and the Omicron variant. The FDA is reminding coronavirus changes over time, so the updated booster will offer broader protection. The vaccine clinic at the fairground is open from 12pm-6pm with walk-ins after 5pm. Dr. Andy Coren previously said he hoped the boosters would slow the spread ahead of possible severe surges this fall and winter.

For more information about Covid boosters or vaccines, call Public Health at 707-472-2759.

A list of vaccine clinics is also available at <http://www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine>

Cal Fire working with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—the official sponsor of

Fire Prevention Week—once again partnering for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape™". It started yesterday, with Fire Prevention Week continuing through Saturday, October 15th. The campaign urges Calif. residents to incorporate the Fire Prevention Week theme because homes can burn fast. They say in some instances, it may be that you have two minutes or less to safely escape a home fire once the smoke alarm sounds. They remind, we all plan for vacations, holidays, and weekly meals, why not plan to save your life and those around you in the event of a home fire?

The Governor is calling for a special legislative session this December for a tax on oil industry profits. The plan to help everyday Californians with soaring gas prices and stick it to oil and gas companies. The special session would likely happen the same day the new class of lawmakers are sworn in, December 5th. Newsom says this has become one of the highest priorities, the “inexplicable” gap between gas prices in California and the national average that has grown to a record \$2.50 a gallon. He says it’s price-gouging, plain and simple, and there’s nothing to justify it. The national average for gallon of regular is \$3.89 per gallon, but in Calif., it’s \$6.39.

The Calif. Public Utilities Commission will not vote for less subsidies for low-income residents on phones and internet after all. There had been an agenda item for low-income California households who qualified to get federal subsidies for phone service and internet access to no longer get the California LifeLine monthly discounts. The Commission was supposed to vote on it Thursday but removed it from the agenda with no word why. But it did come after there were objections to the vote for months, and lawmakers, LifeLine providers, and everyday Californians complained to the commission.

A woman accused of starting a fire in Lake County is ordered back to court. There’s a 90-day review hearing for Nickelina Rose Williams Oct. 25th. The Nevada woman is accused of lighting the fire on Highway 29 last October. A group of motorists stopped to put out the fire and a CHP officer who responded says he saw Williams walking away from the ignition point. She told the officer she didn’t know anything about it, but the officer found a lighter and ignition material with her that seemed to be the same as what was found at the scene of the fire. She was ordered for mental health treatment, so this court date is to get an update on her mental health ahead of a possible trial. She was in a state hospital this summer. Williams is charged with felony arson of forest land, felony arson during a state of emergency and possessing material/device for arson.

CA Congressmembers Mike Thompson and Mike Levin are reportedly leading the charge with several of their House colleagues to investigate high gas prices. There over 2 dozen House members demanding the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) investigate possible non-competitive practices, anti-consumer behavior, and market manipulation by California oil refineries. Apparently a half dozen oil refineries in the state are offline for maintenance which triggered even higher gas prices in Calif., but without an explanation as to why. The congressional members say in their letter to the FTC while maintenance is expected at times, the “degree of divergence from national prices is unprecedented, regardless of planned or unplanned refinery maintenance”.

There may be some Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) this fall. That from Pacific Gas and Electric warning us that high winds may cause trees and debris to topple into energy lines which could ignite fires. So the giant utility says they might have to turn power off when it’s this dry, when it’s too windy. The company claims they’ve been enhancing their PSPS program with an 88% reduction in customers impacted by PSPS last year compared to 2020, and a 43% reduction in how long the intentional power downs lasted in 2021 compared to 2019. They are offering hotel discounts and other places to go to stay safe during 10/11/22 a possible power outage too.

Sheet1

Due to the extreme drought a World War II-era boat has popped up in Shasta Lake. The lake is so dry, items have been emerging as the lake level continues to go down. The boat found had a marking of "31-17" stamped on the side which those who found it say shows it had been assigned to the attack transport USS Monrovia. That vessel was launched back in the early 1940's by Gen. George S. Patton. The ship was decommissioned in 1968 and sold for scrap. No word how it was submerged in Shasta Lake.

After reported promises we'd find out how many people died in the record heat wave last month, still nothing. The state has apparently not been able to count how many Californians became ill or may have died in the epic heat wave the first and second week of September. Public Health experts have been complaining that the subject isn't getting enough attention and the state has not released any data. The LA times reported last year the state had previously underestimated how many heat fatalities there had been as heat waves became more common, and more fatal for some.

The Lake County campus of Woodland Community College had its 50th Anniversary, and a party is being planned. The campus for students who either can't or don't want to travel further, is located near Clear Lake. It used to be part of the Yuba Community College District but then was connected to Woodland Community College in 2016. They plan to have a celebration Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. on campus. The school offers classes in culinary arts, welding, business, computer studies, science, early childhood education, and health care.

The Board of Supervisors had some time sensitive and urgent recommendations to tend to at their last meeting regarding cannabis. As we reported last week there were recommendations from the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, but many of the dozen or so requests were shuffled over to the General Government Committee which meets next week. The Mendocino Voice reports Supervisor Hashak told them the board missed an opportunity and there was too much time spent micro-managing grant qualifications. The same day the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance (MCA) were there waving signs to spur the board to approve the ad hoc recommendations. Some growers told the news site the delays in getting the grants distributed could mean some of them go out of business. Apparently, many growers have applied and have been waiting to have their applications reviewed.

The Supreme Court is set to hear arguments on a California law regarding pork. Producers are challenging Proposition 12, which passed in 2018, which requires pork sold in the state come from facilities where sows have pens that are at least large enough for the animals to turn around and stand up. The goal is to ensure pigs are humanely raised. The state represents about 15-percent of the nation's pork market.

Early voting has begun across the state. Yesterday was the deadline for counties to mail out ballots for the November 8th election. Republicans are focusing on crime and homelessness and Democrats, on abortion and climate change. GOP Chairwoman Jessica Patterson says she thinks the issues will flip seats red because voters are more concerned about the high cost of living. But Governor Newsom says that's his focus too, and the reason the state is sending inflation relief checks to individuals and families.

Sheet1

The State Atty General Rob Bonta has announced ways to avoid homes being destroyed in wildfires. At a news conference in San Diego, Bonta said there were new guidelines for local governments as they consider approving new subdivisions in the "wildland urban interface". That means the developments could be at risk of wildfires. The new guidelines say developers would be banned from building on steep hills in those fire-prone areas; that they need to build adequate water supplies; cluster buildings near roads, and must use fire-resistant building materials above what the state building codes require in these risky areas.

It was gone for two years because of the coronavirus pandemic, but now the Purple Power Walk in Lake County is making a comeback. The walk in Kelseyville will be October 22nd to bring awareness and recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Lake Family Resource Center is hosting the sixth Purple Power Walk which starts on Main Street at 9am. They encourage you to wear purple. The event is happening no matter, rain or shine. The walk is to honor survivors and mourn those lost.

Anyone in need of help due to domestic violence can call or text the community crisis line around the clock, seven days a week, by calling or texting 888-485-7733.

For more information about the Purple Power Walk, call 707-279-0563 or email info@lakefrc.org.

Two changes on the General Election ballot in Fort Bragg. There are two open seats on the City Council, but one candidate's name will not be there, and the other who has not announced yet, but they are reportedly withdrawing, remains. The incumbent member, Tess Albin-Smith, who filed paperwork for re-election for her four-year seat, is going to be a write-in candidate, while Alberto Aldaco had filed as a first-time candidate resigned. Albin-Smith's name removed after some citizens said there were ethics violations with another incumbent council member not wanting to compete against her and instead running for a different seat. They threatened a lawsuit so Albin-Smith removed herself from the ballot, but is running as a write-in.

Because of a shortage of staff, Lake County Animal Care and Control is closing for after-hours service. The agency put out a press release that they are trying to provide a timely response to urgent animal-related issues. They say services after normal business hours are not mandated by law, but they still try their best with staffing and resource limitations. So, with that they are temporarily suspending the after-hours service that might include picking up strays or loose animals starting next month. Weekdays they'll be open regular hours and if you have after-hour needs, you will get a call the following day. There will be someone there on certain weekends in October. They are trying to hire more people, and 10/12/22 as soon as they do, they will reopen for after-hours service.

The California Attorney General Rob Bonta has announced a massive sweep of illegal marijuana. Almost one million illegally grown cannabis plants and over 200,000 pounds of illegally processed weed have been gathered by the State Department of Justice's annual Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program. It's about 3 months of work. Since 1983, they've eradicated over 33 million illegal cannabis plants. Atty. General Bonta says the state has the biggest, safe, legal, and regulated cannabis market in the world, but there are unfortunately illegal and unlicensed grows continuing. The work in 26 counties this time around. In Mendocino: 18 sites, 190,018 plants eradicated; Lake: 51 sites, 97,677 plants eradicated; Siskiyou: 52 sites: 68,130 plants eradicated; Trinity: 22 sites, 46,632 plants eradicated; and Sonoma: 1 site, 1,407 plants eradicated.

A well-respected history writer from the North Coast and newspaper columnist once again appears at the Grace Hudson Museum. Gaye LeBaron was one of the first to hear about plans for the new museum to be built back in the day. Hudson was a renowned and talented painter at the time of the talk. And LeBaron wrote several columns about the museum and it's founder, Barbara Eversole who had raised enough money in the 1980's to get the museum built. LeBaron was on hand again as Sonoma County philanthropist Norma Person's husband Evert was honored with a naming for a new expansion of the museum, the Evert Person Courtyard. Evert bought Hudson's first painting.

A teenager in Lake County is dead, and mystery surrounds the case. Police are trying to find anyone in Clearlake who may know why the 17-year-old boy was killed. They got a call early Monday morning to someone injured lying in the road and found the teen with a gunshot wound. Detectives were on the scene, but no more information was released to the public, nor a name of the deceased minor.

Congressman Mike Thompson is visiting the Middletown Area Town Hall. Those in attendance tomorrow evening will also meet some School Board candidates. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed on Zoom too. Congressman Thompson will kick off the meeting on Zoom. He's running again this November. Then the school board candidates will get a chance to speak as well. MATH is a local advisory council for residents in Anderson Springs, Cobb, Coyote Valley (including Hidden Valley Lake), Long Valley and Middletown.

A new black fence is being erected in Ukiah along Highway 101 north of Perkins. The fencing is reportedly replacing another stretch that was getting too old. It was put in in the 1960s and had been vandalized a bunch. The cost of the 7,500 feet of fencing is \$2.6 million including materials, labor and equipment costs, per CalTrans.

Halloween is almost here and the Willits Center for the Arts has a bunch of activities for the kiddos that weekend. From Oct. 28th – 30th they start with the "High School Monster Dance", then on Saturday, parents get their turn with the "The Haunted Ballroom: A Halloween Masquerade Gala" with live music. Costume winners have a chance to get up to \$250 worth of gas. The gala is the Center's biggest fundraiser of the year. They're trying to raise money to replace the old gallery lighting system. And on Sunday they have a free costume party for the youngsters and their families from 2 to 4 p.m.

Sheet1

The Enchanted Pumpkin Patch celebration is coming to the Waldorf School of Mendocino County on Halloween. For a safe trick-or-treating outing with the littles you can visit the Calpella Campus. There will be theater skits happening along with treats. Local actors and actresses will be on stage to entertain. There's also a Smoky Cauldron Café which will have light snacks, homemade baked goods, Black Oak Coffee, apple cider and hot chocolate. For more info: <http://www.mendocinowaldorf.org/enchanted-pumpkin-path/>, or at the Waldorf School office, (707) 485-8719.

There's an epidemic across Calif. A new study reports especially in the Central Valley, cases of maternal and congenital syphilis are being reported. CalMatters is reporting the sexually transmitted disease is popping up in the poorer areas across California. Reporters did ride-alongs with an STD investigator who drives thru rural towns reporting to pregnant people on the findings. Rates have been skyrocketing to a point not seen in two decades. Congenital syphilis happens when a mom passes the disease to her fetus, and if it goes untreated it can cause severe neurological disorders, organ damage, and even infant death.

A man from Middletown found guilty of DUI (with alcohol while causing injury) and hit and run with permanent injury or death has been back to court. The prosecution asked for the victim to appear remotely during a restitution hearing to see how much the man should pay to his victim from the May 2019 accident. Joshua Ferrell was accused of crossing the double yellow line on Highway 175 and crashing head on into Cole Jensen. Both drivers had major injuries and Ferrell left the scene but was found later. Ferrell pleaded not guilty at the time, but evidence proved that he should be tried in the case which continues.

Schools across the state are dealing with a ransomware problem or cyberattacks. Ed Source reports Los Angeles Unified was the latest attacked by ransomware. The education news site reports school districts are getting cyber insurance, setting up automatic backups and installing beefed up security, like requiring double authentication for access to some data. And firsthand experience has pushed many to reevaluate the data they keep. In LA their attack was over Labor Day weekend, with the criminals posting some of the school district's data online because they wouldn't negotiate or pay a ransom. According to one estimate, ransomware attacks have happened to over 60 school districts, colleges and universities across the country this year alone.

There's a new boss at the Lakeport Fire Protection District. A new chief was announced yesterday who replaces Jeff Thomas who resigned in May. Chief Patrick Reitz starts Nov. 1st from the Idyllwild Fire Protection District. He also served in Wyoming and Oregon. He is taking over for the interim chief Dan Grebil who's been running things all summer. Reitz was first a volunteer firefighter, then moved into career positions as an EMT and firefighter. He and his wife are relocating from Idyllwild.

Sheet1

The South Cow Mountain OHV Safety Event is being held by the Bureau of Land Management. This Saturday at the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area the public is invited for an exciting experience, which the Ukiah Field Manager says can be just as fun for beginners and experienced riders alike. They are asking for you to make safety the priority and ride responsibly. It starts at 9am at the Westside Staging Area with a safety clinic first. There are 23,000 acres to explore. For more information and directions to the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area, visit their webpage or call the Ukiah Field Office at 707-468-4000.

Firefighters pounced quick on a home fire in Hopland. Mendo Fever reports hearing yesterday afternoon about a structure fire in the hills outside of the town with Hopland Volunteer Firefighters on the scene with CALFIRE. The fire broke out in hilly terrain inside a home's kitchen. The stove was apparently engulfed in flames and the homeowner was on it with a garden hose. As soon as firefighters got there, they snuffed it, but say there was "quite a bit of damage" to the inside of the house. The homeowner was also reportedly complaining of possible smoke inhalation, but said they'd get medical treatment if they felt it was necessary.

It's Emotional Wellness Month nationwide. In Lake County they're reminding as the holiday season approaches, combined with social, cultural and political conflict, COVID-19, natural and man-made disasters, it's been a stressful, even traumatic time for many. The Director of Lake County Behavioral Health Services says the communities within the county are "resilient and strong, but it is important to be aware of our emotional wellness, and how critical good mental health is to overall health". He reminds ways to support emotional well-being can include: staying connected or creating new social connections, physical exercise and meditation, self-care and laughter.

For more information, please contact Lake County Behavioral Health Services at 707-274-9101 or 707-994-7090. Or visit:

<https://nationalwellness.org/resources/six-dimensions-of-wellness/>

It doesn't look as though the Supreme Court is too keen on wading into California's animal welfare law and protections for pigs. Some Pork producers in the Midwest are challenging a ballot measure in the State of California to ban the sale of pork if breeding pigs were being confined in narrow metal cages. Proposition 12 was approved by California voters in 2018. The new argument to the Supremes is that it's unconstitutional because it forces hog farmers elsewhere to make the same changes. Most of the pork sold in Calif. though comes from other states.

As we head into the new water year, officials in Mendocino County say they're preparing for another drought year. The latest update released from the Mendocino County Water Agency says the City Community Services District is going to keep on promoting "strong conservation" and increased individual water storage. They've been touting a new emergency community water storage tank project which is apparently still a couple years away. The Board has moved into a Stage 2 Water Shortage as of September 26th. In Ukiah, the Director of Water and Sewer says the city is prepared for whatever happens and there is nearly 300 million gallons of recycled water this year.

Sheet1

Some community members in Ukiah are trying to get a permit for an indoor miniature golf course. A request has been made to use a deserted building next to CVS for "T-Up Ukiah" at 125 S. Orchard Ave. where a Sears used to be. The city's Zoning Administrator has reportedly received the application. The building has been empty for more than a decade. The owner has requested a Minor Use Permit for the indoor, nine-hole mini-golf course with a lounge and seating for special events. They would section it off into three parts over its 5,800 square-feet. The meeting is Monday morning.

An update has been released to the public on the new tsunami hazard map. The California Geological Survey and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services put the updated map out that mostly shows changes in the Bay Area, but over seven counties total. The areas were based on a map from back in 2009 showing potential inundation from a Tsunami, should one happen. The counties with the major updates this time around are Marin, Napa, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Ventura. The last update was in July of 2021 showing 1,000-year historical tsunami events. Previous to that map, they only showed 100- to 500-year historical events.

It happened again, the Sonoma County Water Agency reported "a third consecutive year of below average rainfall in the Russian River watershed". The agency reports that means the two primary water storage reservoirs, Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino are near historic lows. The report also says thru August of this year, was the driest in Sonoma County in 128 years. Rainfall was almost 20 inches below normal. There's going to be a virtual townhall with Sonoma County officials today to discuss water for those dependent on the Russian River. The briefing will be streamed live on the County of Sonoma Facebook page.

A donation from Walmart is going to the Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District. The company reportedly donated the money after the Ukiah store manager showed the District they could apply for money to help bolster the Firefighters Association for Fire, Rescue and Medical equipment needs. The \$4,000 donation from the Walmart Community Grants. That's not all, the District also announced being awarded another \$10,000 grant from their grant partner California Fire Foundation. With that the District says they can protect several firefighters with up-to-date and properly fitting wildland PPE and various other safety, rescue and medical supplies required to help safely protect our community and their north state neighbors.

A new report says a recent crackdown on drug dealers across California seems to be working. Four-million fentanyl pills and almost 900 pounds of powder was gathered in the roundup over the last 16 months and 200 people were arrested. That's according to the state Attorney General Rob Bonta who says fentanyl is coming from out of the state and country, leading to an increase in overdose deaths. The drug is up to 100 times more potent than morphine.

Sheet1

Mendocino County's Stormwater Management agency is holding a stakeholder meeting regarding their NPDES Permit with Planning and Buildings Services (PBS). The virtual meeting is set for next Wednesday at 1:30pm on Zoom. They will present the planned changes to the Low Impact Development (LID) Standards before they finalize the program manual. The meeting is for general public, and industry professionals to give feedback on the current manual and the changes that are happening in the near future.

10/14/22

For more information about this meeting, please contact Adrienne Thompson at 707-234-6677, or check the department's website at:
<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/public>

The celebration at Woodland Community College's Lake County Campus went off without a hitch. There was a gathering yesterday of faculty, staff, students and supporters with food, music and celebrating 5 decades of learning. The campus was built in 1972 as the Lake County Center of Yuba College, but not until 1974, after a couple of years in Kelseyville, were there students on this Lake County campus. There are now many buildings on almost 13 acres including a new library; student services center; biology, chemistry and early childhood education classrooms; plus an on-campus restaurant with a dining room. The City of Clearlake also recently agreed to donate \$55,000 for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years for a scholarship program.

A new report says there are more harmful algal blooms as the temperature rises due to climate change. The blooms are caused by the cyanobacteria that expands in water bodies, but can be harmful to humans, domestic animals and wildlife. The Public Health Institute study with its Tracking California Program showed a toxin that is let off from the cyanobacteria, called microcystin, has now contaminated private drinking water in Lake County. The study sent to the CDC showed there was bacteria detected in around 70% of the homes that take in their water from Clear Lake. The Institute also worked with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water.

Construction on the first stretch of a massive broadband project across the state has started. The 10,000-mile-long broadband network is supposed to help bring high-speed internet to Californians without. They started construction yesterday in rural San Diego County. The Governor commented that it will help close the digital divide and bring affordable high-speed internet to every California home... no matter the zip code they call home, so they "can be part of the Golden State's thriving and diverse economy." The work began on SR 67 near Poway, the first segment of the \$3.8 billion project dubbed the "Middle Mile" broadband network.

Sheet1

A woman from Clearlake Oaks accused of arson and thought to be mentally incompetent to stand trial had a visit to court. The case against Tori Elizabeth Brannon continues early next month and a jury trial is set for November 30th. Brannon has pleaded not guilty but the judge believed there was enough evidence to try her in the case from July 2021. Brannon was sent to a state hospital to regain competency so she could understand the proceedings against her. She's charged with aggravated arson, arson (inhabited structure), causing fire (inhabited structure), possessing material for arson and threatening to commit crime. At the time police said she was under the influence of a controlled substance. She was also accused of carrying a concealed dirk/dagger from another case the following day.

A giant expanse of land is being preserved near Westport for public use and the public is asked to help manage the land. The deal for the 26-acres of oceanfront property a mile north of Westport is thanks to a partnership with the nonprofit Westport Village Society, the landowner, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission. It's part of DeHaven Creek. There was unanimous approval of the deal by the State Coastal Conservancy last month for a grant to cover the deal which should be done by the end of the year. They're asking members of the public and local Native American Tribes to get involved in continued stewardship of the land.

If you are interested in helping WVS manage this property or wish to offer comments please contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org. For more information about WVS and its activities visit <https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>.

It's been five decades of reading and learning at the Ukiah Branch Library. And with that, a celebration. Next Wednesday at the 105 N. Main St. location from 2 to 6 p.m. library staff is hosting a celebration of the 70's to commemorate when the library opened. So go retro and come make some shrinky-dink art, listen to live music and see a special slideshow from the library's archives. They're also giving out goodie bags and will be serving cake all compliments of the Mendocino County Library and the Friends of the Ukiah Valley Library.

Applications are being accepted by the West Business Development Center (West Center) for its StartUp Mendocino 2023 program. It's a free program for local entrepreneurs to expand or add onto their business. They say it will build on an entrepreneur's success. The business accelerator program starting with their pitch competition back in 2019. The business accelerator course is a 13 early-stage program with sponsorship by Tri Counties Bank, Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Redwood Credit Union, and the County of Mendocino. They're accepting applications thru Oct. 23rd with their announcement of qualifying participants Nov. 23rd.

Sheet1

Reports of shark sightings in Mendocino County. Mendo Fever reported they've heard the last two weeks of a trio of shark encounters. Sightings were reported by surfers at Virgin Creek. Then other reports of bumping, circling or following kayakers at Laguna Point at MacKerricher State Park. The latest, the news site reports, was a 12–16 foot Great White just north of Van Damme swimming under and circling kayakers. The news site reports this time of year is normal for some sightings, but thankfully there's been no recent attacks in Mendocino County. However there were recent attacks in Humboldt and Monterey Counties with severe injuries.

Water quality violations still being reported in Calif. Last Friday the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board said their enforcement work found a 25% increase the last two years which they say is because they've been more forceful responding to cannabis grows, especially the ones that threaten nearby waterways. They report most of the grows did not have permits and were dumping trash into creeks, riverbeds or building illegal roads for their nefarious work which then created erosion hazards. They say they're still investigating multiple other possible violations. Since July of 2020 they have given nearly 250 violation notices out, 30 for non-compliance, 12 cleanup and abatement orders, 9 administrative civil liability complaints, 14 administrative civil liability orders (one issued to cannabis growers) and two expedited payment letters for mandatory minimum penalties. The larger cases in Humboldt and Trinity counties.

The Mendocino County General Government Committee is taking up several cannabis related items at their next meeting. After the Department of Cannabis Control announced one year ago there was \$100 million in funding for the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grants Program (LJAGP). The grants are to be distributed to those who have the greatest need to get annual, instead of Provisional License. Last week several people showed up to the Board of Supervisors meeting to hear what the Board had to say about the matter, which they mostly slid over to the committee for their Monday meeting. These licenses regulate cannabis businesses. Some applicants say they've been in limbo since applying for their annual licenses and may have to go out of business if they don't get the switchover soon. Then the next day Supervisors will discuss and possibly move to and adopt the resolution for a Mitigated Negative Declaration regarding the establishment of a formal Cannabis Department; and establish an appeals process and define a county agency as the cannabis department. In other business the board is also looking to adopt a resolution to declare a temporary road closure of Dogwood Terrace and Dogwood Lane due to continued illegal dumping.

The food assistance program in the state just like so many other businesses, dealing with staffing shortages. It also means there are casework backlogs at CalFresh, people have to wait to be serviced, and reports of employee burnout. And it's all happening as the state approved an expansion of the program for undocumented seniors. The Sacramento Bee reports complaints are coming from workers for the program providing benefits to over 4 and a half million Californians. Applications for the program have increased the last two years and workers say they're overwhelmed. Many counties report a more than 15% vacancy rate in staffing with some senior staffers saying funding is still at 2001
10/17/22 levels.

Sheet1

Wine buying is still down in the hospitality sector, possibly due to inflation. A new report says a return to pre-pandemic buying of alcoholic beverages at restaurants, bars, nightclubs, hotels and other venues is not happening. SipSource, a data service run by the trade group Wine & Spirits Wholesales of America, has been tracking purchases of wine and spirits for the last two and a half years. The market bottomed out of course during lockdowns, and really hitting rock-bottom in February of 2021. Then in the three months that ended in May of 2022, wine and spirits on-premises were down again. The trade group says people are trying to save money, that includes eating out less often.

A business in Ukiah's plowed into by a car. The business on South State Street hit by a guy in an Audi who police say drove right through stop signs into a residential area and the building. The building has a tax business and bridal store. Yasmín Mendoza, her husband, and their two children were there at the time. Mendo Fever reports the family felt the office shake and heard a loud noise, which was a crash into a wall. The wall then exploded, tossing glass and debris all around. Firefighters had to report to the scene due to a gas line embedded in the wall of the building. They say the driver got out and ran and police are asking for help locating the suspect, 23-year-old Malique West-Colvin.

A woman reported missing from Middletown over two months ago has still not been seen. Mendo Fever reports 38-year-old Goldie Lee Morse was picking blackberries with her roommate in Cobb and has not been seen since. She was barefoot and did not have her phone or wallet. The news site reports there have been reports of sightings, but Morse basically vanished. Lake County Sheriff's Deputies have been actively searching for her, spending more than one thousand hours looking, pouring over surveillance footage and checking Morse's phone and social media accounts.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office is reportedly searching for someone who attacked a teenager. Kym Kemp reports Deputies were called to a possible juvenile sexual assault in a wooded area near McKinleyville High School last Friday. The Major Crimes Division was following up on leads and say the alleged suspect was either a Hispanic or Native American man who may have been in his thirties, about 5'9" – 5'10", had a physically fit build, dark wavy shoulder length hair and full beard, wearing a camouflage jacket, black sweatpants, and white shoes and a blue hiking style backpack. They are reaching out to the public for help.

Some local kids got to see what it would be like to be a welder, spending the day at METALfx Willits, a manufacturing business. Students from Covelo, Laytonville and Ukiah toured the facility with teachers from their high school's Career and Technical Education Department. They also went out to Factory Pipe in Ukiah, which manufactures exhaust systems. The coordinator for the career department says they're always looking for other businesses to show kids around. Contact Jonaca Vice at jvice@uusd.net

Sheet1

Reports of violence at No. California prisons, the latest two inmates killing another. There have been 3 murders in two weeks according to corrections officials. Inmates William Lutts and Timothy Smith reportedly attacked 51-year-old Terence Coleman at High Desert State Prison. Coleman was serving a life sentence out of Yolo County. Two inmates serving life sentences were killed at other prisons, one at Salinas Valley State Prison and the other at California State Prison, Sacramento, last week.

As we get closer to the General Election next month, Californians will get to decide if menthol and flavored tobacco products or vaping juice should be banned. The argument, besides it being unhealthy is that it's marketed to kids. But even though it was banned two years ago by lawmakers, it never went into effect. And word is tobacco giants, like R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris spent millions on petitions so that voters had to take up the issue instead. Supporters say the law is a necessity to stop the explosion of teen smokers. Those opposed say it will be a huge loss in tax revenue.

PG&E has an outsider trying to help them improve their wildfire safety. A consulting firm has been hired by the state after fires started by their aging equipment, damaged power poles and trees that went down into their equipment after crews didn't first notice it. The consultant says the utility company's progress on wildfire safety has been slowed because of the supply chain issues many are experiencing worldwide. The consultant, Filsinger Energy Partners released their first report to the Public Utilities Commission last Monday.

The Mendocino County Sheriff has posted on social media about a massive haul of illegal marijuana. Sheriff Matt Kendall says the office has been hard at work this year with the Marijuana Enforcement Team finding more than 200,000 marijuana plants, almost 30 tons of processed marijuana and 43 weapons. The Sheriff says they have an extreme shortage in personnel so they've been focused on the most egregious violators and this haul was only a drop in the bucket. He says they're constantly fielding calls from concerned citizens about violence and environmental degradation. Sheriff Kendall says Mendocino County cannot boast a safe, legal, or regulated cannabis market. Kendall says he's working with his counterparts in Lake, Humboldt, Trinity, and Butte Counties to continue investigating these crimes.

You may see pillars of smoke in the air as Cal Fire Mendocino is conducting a major burn east of Fort Bragg. The burn today is planned north of Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, north of Highway 20, and west of Willits. They plan to continue burning all the way through a week from Friday, October 28th. The burns will be from noon to 5 p.m. if weather and air quality conditions permit. They remind to stay out of the area but say the burns will of course be conducted under very tight restrictions. The main reasons for the burn is to reintroduce fire as a natural element of the ecosystem, to improve wildlife habitat, and of course reduce fuel to hopefully reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the future.

Sheet1

The public power provider for Sonoma and Mendocino Counties is putting in more electric vehicle chargers. Mendo Fever reports Sonoma Clean Power is putting in Level 2 and direct current, fast chargers. A few years ago the power company won a \$6.75 million grant from the California Energy Commission's (CEC) California Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (CALeVIP) so they could expand the amount of chargers they had. So the company partnered with businesses, nonprofits, multi-family properties, tribal governments, and government entities for locations. Those sites got rebates for the equipment and installation costs. There are now 72 more charging stations in the two counties including 9 DC fast chargers and 63 Level 2 chargers. There will be well over 100 more next year, for a total of a 20% increase in the region.

Governor Newsom has announced that nearly 3 years after it being put in place, California will end the COVID-19 state of emergency in February. The announcement yesterday that in light of way less cases and a drastic decline in deaths, the state of emergency he announced after the COVID19 outbreak in 2020 will finally end. The February 28th date means healthcare systems will have time to acclimate to the continued fight on their own, and possible surges in cases over the holidays should be long gone by then. The Governor says the emergency declaration was an "effective and necessary tool" that was used as a protection. He also says the state wouldn't have gotten to where it is now without the state of emergency.

10/18/22

Cal Fire is continuing to work with the Army Reserves, Soldiers and their families to get them meaningful jobs and educational opportunities. The idea is to use technology, management tools, social networking platforms and hiring events with military and veteran service organizations like Vet Jobs, Recruit Military, Returning Veterans: Enlisting Their Skills for CAL FIRE Service (R.V.E.T.S.), and others. The P3O program views Soldiers as assets with quantifiable value and the program touts having transformed how both the Army Reserve and corporate America attract, develop, and retain talent.

Intro: This year's open enrollment period for health insurance is right around the corner. But some employer-based health plans start their open enrollment even sooner than the November 1st date. People looking for insurance on the individual market can go to the 'Covered California' website, 'CoveredCA.com.' James Scullary, a spokesperson for the state's health insurance marketplace, says people might be surprised by the choices they find.

:17 "Many consumers are finding out that if they weren't eligible before, now they are – or if they got a small subsidy a few years ago, that's increased – so coverage may be more affordable than they thought. So really, regardless of your income, check out your options and see whether or not you can lower your monthly premiums."

1

Tag: The projected range in Calif. for premiums this year was was 581-dollars a month – a one-point-eight percent increase over 2021. But the majority of those getting their insurance through the marketplace in Calif also get subsidies to bring down their monthly bill. The subsidies began with the American Rescue Plan – and the new Inflation Reduction Act has extended them for another three years.

Second Cut: Dr. Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer at UnitedHealthCare, encourages people to consider their families' unique needs when choosing a plan.

:13 "Some things to consider are prescription drug benefits, mental health coverage, specialty benefits – things like dental, vision, hearing, critical illness insurance – and wellness programs."

1

Tag: This year, 13 insurers are participating in the Covered California exchange. That means people in all counties will have a choice of at least two plans, and 81-percent can choose from four or more plans.

A presentation is being made to the Lake County Board of Supervisors for a new countywide parks master plan. The Board is also looking at whether or not to hire outside legal counsel to respond to Pacific Gas and Electric's wildfire mitigation activities in Lake County. Lake Co News reports the board will hear from BluePoint Planning first thing about their preparation for a countywide parks, recreation and trails master plan. The board already awarded the contract to the company. Then into the meeting, right before lunch the board will have a public hearing to look over the ordinance rescinding certain sections of the Lake County Zoning Ordinance relating to early activation. And towards the end of lunch a discussing regarding outside legal services regarding PG&E.

After the lockdowns many restaurants started to open up dining outdoors, and even on the street. Now the Lakeport City Council is considering outdoor dining design guidelines. They'll also be going over amendments to the 2022-23 fiscal year budget. The meeting tonight will be open to the public, but masks are being encouraged along with social distancing. They're also streaming on Zoom. The council is considering a contract with a company for the Lakeport Blvd at Bevins Street Project study report and a mutual aid agreement for emergency help along with the cities of Lakeport, Clearlake, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits and Point Arena. There are several ordinances to consider on the agenda including some parade permits, development deals and professional service agreements.

Caltrans reports PG&E is going to start undergrounding utility lines on Highway 299. The work to be done to prevent catastrophic wildfires east of Willow Creek between Cedar Flat and Del Loma. Caltrans says PG&E undergrounding began this year in several regions. In Humboldt County they're also along State Routes 70 and 89, so you should plan for delays when driving along any of the highways.

Sheet1

Governor Gavin Newsom said no again to allowing parole for Charles Manson follower Patricia Krenwinkel. It's been over fifty years since she apparently wrote "Helter Skelter" in the blood of one of their victims on a wall. The Governor says the 74-year-old is still too much of a public safety risk to be allowed to go free. Newsom says "Krenwinkel fully accepted Mr. Manson's racist, apocalyptic ideologies," and that not only was she a victim herself of Manson's abuse, but a main contributor to the violence and tragedy that became the Manson Family's legacy. A two-member parole panel recommended she be freed last May. She was denied before this 14 times.

Some organizations that cater to kids in Ukiah, Hopland and Redwood Valley are trying to find volunteers to help with field trips and nature walks for environmental education. The UC Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC), Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project (RVOEP) and UC 4-H Youth Development Program are sharing volunteer recruitment duties, all looking for people to work with youngsters. The volunteer work is suited to folks who don't work during the week and a lot of the volunteering for the organizations is during the work week, but there are some spots on the weekends and at night. They're hosting a volunteer event one week from tomorrow, October 26th from 10am – 1pm at Shippey Hall, Hopland Research and Extension Center in Hopland. Free lunch is being offered.

Participants are requested to register online for the event at <https://bit.ly/volunteerhrec>.

For further information, email hbird@ucanr.edu or call Hannah at (707) 744-1424, ext. 105.

The North Shore restoration project gets a green light in Lake County. Mendo Fever reports the acting forest supervisor has signed the decision for the project they say will improve community wildfire safety. It will cut back fuels in the wildland urban interface at the same time, restoring and reforesting charred areas after the 2018 Ranch Fire. The area covered is about 11 miles outside of Upper Lake by some neighborhoods on the north and northeast shores of Clear Lake. There were apparently a bunch of dead trees when the Ranch Fire broke out. The supervisor says it's probably the largest project decision in the area. They will not only do prescribed burning, but also pile burning, hand thinning and mechanical treatment on some sloped areas.

Congressman John Garamendi working with his associate, US Senator Alex Padilla sending a letter to President Biden regarding an area of Lake Berryessa to expand the current National Monument to include Walker Ridge. The congressional members along with others are asking Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 for an expansion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The letter requests the Interior Secretary also order the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to rename "Walker Ridge" to "Condor Ridge" and "Molok Luyuk" in the Patwin language. The monument stretches from Napa County in the south to Mendocino County in the north.

California will be the first in the nation to mandate insurance premium discounts for home and business owners which have been made firesafe. The new rules say insurers have to reward customers who take wildfire safety precautions under the state's Safer From Wildfires framework. The state Department of Insurance made the announcement Monday which included a checklist of the expert-recommended work for homes and businesses for wildfire protection. It comes as business and homeowners got seriously dinged with higher premiums over the last several years. Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara reported less than half of the insurance companies in California provide such discounts.

Another call to expand the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. This week Congressman John Garamendi, Congressman Mike Thompson and other California senators and representatives sent a letter to President Joe Biden asking him to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to expand the National Monument to include Walker Ridge. Lake County News reports President Barack Obama designated the national monument in 2015 but officials say Walker Ridge is among sacred lands within and around Berryessa Snow Mountain that are central to indigenous origin stories.

10/19/23

The man police suspect to be a serial killer responsible for six murders in Stockton and Oakland has been formally charged with three of them. On Tuesday Stockton resident Wesley Brownlee was charged with the deaths of three men. Prosecutors have not yet said if or when they will charge him with the other three. Investigators say the five 2022 homicides in Stockton and one last year in Oakland followed the same factual patterns and the shots were from the same gun.

Mendocino College has a new transfer alliance with Arizona State University. Officials say the program called MyPath2ASU allows students to take the steps needed at the start of their Mendocino college experience to successfully plan a transfer to ASU. They say the program includes guaranteed general admission to ASU and admission into a MyPath2ASU major choice as long as all the requirements are satisfied. The program reportedly has more than 400 course-by-course guided pathways into degree programs.

If you are looking at doing some earthquake upgrades to your home, registration is open in Mendocino County for the "Earthquake Brace + Bolt Program". Homeowners in Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Redwood Valley, Ukiah, and Willits are encouraged to take advantage of grant funding to offset the cost of seismic retrofitting of your primary residence. Eligible homeowners could get up to \$3,000 to help offset the cost of seismic retrofits that brace the cripple walls of older homes and bolt houses to their foundations. Apply online through November 29 <https://www.earthquakebracebolt.com>.

The owners of a Calistoga landfill are selling it to Waste Connections. The North Bay Business Journal reports [Upper Valley Disposal & Recycling](#) is selling the embattled Clover Flat Resource Recovery Park which they've operated since 1963. COO Christy Pestoni reportedly made the decision following the death of company founder Bob Pestoni last year saying the acquisition was in the best interest for the family as well as the community. The Journal reports for the last several years Clover Flat has reportedly been the subject of complaints alleging stormwater issues, wildfire risks and pollution.

A Northern California health official is expressing concern that a new subvariant of COVID-19 could lead to a winter surge. The UC Berkeley infectious disease specialist tells the Press Democrat the BQ. 1 and BQ. 1.1 subvariants of the omicron subvariant BA.5 were barely detectable in September but appear to be growing quickly. He says it likely won't be a severe surge because many people are either vaccinated or have antibodies but he's concerned that people are not keeping up on boosters due to what some in health care are calling "vaccine fatigue".

There's a community rally set for Thursday at the CalFire office in Ft. Bragg to protest CalFire's proposal for "co-management" of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest with Indigenous Tribes. Mendo Fever reports the rally is in response to a September 26 letter from CalFire to the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Historic Preservation Officer offering co-management of just 75 acres of the nearly 50,000 acres of publicly owned forest and with reportedly no mention of protection for Sacred Sites. The rally will begin at Fort Bragg Town Hall Thursday at 1:30 and march to the CalFire office.

CalFire says so far, so good on the prescribed burn at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp in Fort Bragg. If you've noticed the smoke around Mendocino and Lake Counties the prescribed burn started Monday with crews completing a 12-acre plot of the 200-acre total prescribed burn plan. Yesterday they did a 15-acre plot. They will continue the burn periodically, on days that weather conditions and air quality allow, through October 28 or until it's all done.
10/20/22

Investigators say a Sonoma Valley man shot by Sonoma County sheriff's deputies Saturday night in Sonoma was armed with a makeshift gun and he was firing at one of the deputies. The Press Democrat reports the man is in critical condition but is expected to survive and may face charges of attempted homicide of a police officer. Investigators characterized the gun as an "improvised firearm" and say it was made of pipe and black tape. The deputies were not hurt in the incident and both are currently on paid administrative leave.

Today is the Great California ShakeOut, a chance for you to practice what you would do when an earthquake hits. At approximately 10:20, MyShake App users will get a test notification encouraging you to practice "Drop, Cover and Hold On", wherever you are, in the event of an earthquake. The test drill will have an audible tone along with verbal messaging that says, "This is a test of the earthquake warning system." It's not a County run exercise, it's purely voluntary. You can find the app at <https://myshake.berkeley.edu>. It's available in both the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

Ukiah's Community Development Director has approved a permit for an indoor mini-golf course on South Orchard Avenue. Parking was the main concern for whether the business is appropriate for that spot next to CVS, but the Ukiah Daily Journal reports the Planning Manager cited the opinion of city planning staff that there is plenty of parking in the 440 space parking lot nearby and the mini-golf would likely have mostly opposite hours from businesses next door. The developer reportedly says they plan to promote it as a family-friendly, all-ages attraction.

Assemblymember Jim Wood of Healdsburg is touting the start of the first leg of a high speed internet installation called the Middle Mile that will allow internet service providers to provide connections to unserved or underserved Californians. The 10,000 mile network, made possible by \$6.5 billion in funding from SB 156, will be the nation's largest when fully constructed. Wood says with one-in-five Californians not having access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet, this is the biggest investment California has made yet to fix that.

A new study suggests the California wildfires of 2020 that destroyed more than 4 million acres of forest doubly erased 16 years of progress in tackling climate change in the state. The study done by researchers at UCLA and the University of Chicago called “Up in Smoke” claims the 2020 wildfires released around 140 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air. That’s around twice the 71 million tons the state managed to reduce in carbon emissions from 2003 to 2019.

Factory Pipe in Ukiah recently played host to more than 100 Mendocino County Shop and Welding students to give them an up-close look at a true state of the art manufacturing business. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports Factory Pipe held a “Manufacturing Day” for students from Ukiah High, Mendocino College, Clearlake High, Laytonville High, Willits High, Round Valley High, Sequoia Career Academy and South Valley High on October 13. The kids took a tour of the operation and got to watch Factory Pipe’s real-time production of exhaust systems for motorsports.

As you get ready to winter your garden, the Ukiah Branch Library will be hosting a workshop on “Fall Seed Cleaning”. It’s Saturday, November 5, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. You’ll learn how to clean, dry and store vegetable seeds from your garden including both wet-seeded and dry-seeded crops like tomatoes and beans. The Library says it will be a hands-on class where you’ll learn to clean, winnow and sift seeds and yes, if you have seeds ready to clean, you can bring. The workshop is free to the public, thanks to the Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library and the Mendocino County Library.

There could be some power shut-offs next week starting on Sunday due to high winds. Pacific Gas and Electric says a public safety power shutoff, or PSPS, is likely on Sunday, October 23 and Monday October 24 with high winds and dry conditions forecast. Lake County News reports the counties under watch for Sunday are Lake, Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Napa, Stanislaus, Tehama and Yolo. On Monday, counties under watch are Lake, Butte, Kern, Napa and Tehama. You can get the specific addresses for the shutoffs on PG&E’s Website [10/21/22 PSPS page](#).

A case of alleged criminal misconduct against former Ukiah Police Chief Noble Waidelich is reportedly now with the state Attorney General’s Office. The Mendocino County District Attorney’s Office tells the Daily News they have forwarded the investigation done earlier this year by the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office to the Attorney General. The Mendo DA has not released details as to what Waidelich is suspected of doing; he was placed on administrative leave in June just a few months after starting as Ukiah Chief. The Mendocino DA asked Sonoma to lead the investigation to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Potential homebuyers in Clearlake could get help from the city if a new plan comes together. At their meeting this week the Clearlake City Council gave staff the green light to develop a proposal for a new homebuyer assistance program. Lake County News reports the goal is to keep workers from leaving the city for more affordable areas. The City Manager reported that the average home price in Clearlake is around \$240,000 but new construction would cost around \$420,000 for a 1,200 square foot home.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder says they've discovered an error in the party endorsement section of the Mendocino County Sample Ballot booklet for the 2022 General Election. They say the endorsement section for the California Democratic Party should include for US Senate (Full Term) Alex Padilla and for U S Senate (Partial Term) Alex Padilla. They say they apologize for any inconvenience.

Vote By Mail ballots have been mailed to all active registered voters in Mendocino County. The County Clerk-Recorder says they were sent on October 11 so if you haven't received your ballot yet, call the County Of Mendocino Office of Assessor County Clerk Recorder for a replacement. And they confirm they have been hearing of election mail being stolen out of mail boxes so if you believe your ballot was stolen call them so they can immediately cancel the ballot and issue you a new one.

Ukiah musician and artist Spencer Brewer and his wife, artist Esther Siegel, have published a book on assemblage art. "Lost and Found – Assemblage Artists of Northern California" has 330 photos of the 'visual jazz' of repurposing everyday items into sculpture. You can order a copy online at <http://www.lostandfound.art> or find it at Mendocino Book Company, Edgewater Gallery, the Grace Hudson Museum and Partners Gallery. They will be doing a series of book signings as well next month.

A suspected arsonist has been nabbed in Red Bluff. On Wednesday CalFire Law Enforcement Officers arrested Shane Heard of Red Bluff and charged him with multiple counts of arson to forest land, use of an incendiary device, and enhancements due to the ongoing State of Emergency. Heard is being held on \$6.6 million bail. Cal Fire is thanking the residents of the community for their vigilance and for providing information which helped to capture Heard.

The CalFire Tehama Glenn Unit and Corning Land and Cattle Company are planning a prescribed Vegetation Management Program burn next week. Weather permitting from October 28-30 they are planning to burn 1500 acres west of Rancho Tehama Reserve. Burning will begin at 10:00 am and finish at 5:00 pm each day. They say smoke may be visible in the Rancho Tehama, Paskenta and Flournoy areas and to also watch out for fire trucks staged in the area.

CalFire has added more than 1,200 acres to the Demonstration State Forest system. It includes 1,151 acres of Sierra Nevada forestlands in the American River headwaters in Placer County, the second of a three-phase project to create a permanently protected 2,600-acre Demonstration State Forest spanning the Upper American and Bear River watersheds. The property was formerly owned by Pacific Gas and Electric and has been transferred to CalFire through PG&E's Land Conservation Commitment. CalFire will own and manage the property but the Placer Land Trust holds the conservation easement that prohibits development. The final phase will be to add 1,200 acres near the Bear River which they plan to acquire from PG&E early next year.

Sheet1

If you have a teen driver, the CHP says it's gotten another grant from the Office of Traffic Safety to help promote safe driving behaviors for teens. The CHP says car crashes are the No. 1 killer of teens in America and it's not just because of cell phones – it's also eating, drinking, changing the music, or simply talking with friends in the car. The grant will allow for CHP officers to make appearances at schools and community events and to conduct distracted driving enforcement during National Teen Driver Safety Week in October and National Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April.

Another whale has washed up in Mendocino County. The dead humpback was the second in two months along the Mendocino Coast north of Fort Bragg and the fourth since spring. One found back in May was apparently a rare species, a beaked whale that was found close to Jug Handle State Reserve. And just a few 10/24/22 months back, in July, a Sperm Whale washed up in a cove near Mendocino.

Prescribed burning is planned for the Old Briceland Ridge Project. The burn between Garberville and Briceland on about 16 acres should send smoke into the air today. It's near some other burns that had been planned in the area near old fire lines. It's to extend a shaded fuel break over the ridgeline. The work to thin the overgrown forest understory and burn downed and dead vegetation. There will be firefighters on scene and members of the local prescribed burn association all dependent of course, on weather conditions. This is a permitted burn even though CalFire has not yet lifted the fire season burn ban.

Fentanyl in pill and powder form has been found after a routine traffic stop in Fort Bragg. The driver identified as 21-year-old Jonathan Martinez was pulled over for using a cell phone when drugs and cash were found on him, leading to a search of his car and home. Police say they first saw about a pound of marijuana in the car, out in the open, then oxycodone pills and about \$300 cash were found. The driver had also just been released from jail for selling weed. They got a search warrant for the man's home and found more oxy, 13 grams of suspected powdered fentanyl, Xanax, digital scales, and over \$12,000. He's booked on sales/transportation of a controlled substance, sales/transportation of cannabis, violation of a court order, and operating a cell phone while driving.

Someone has called Deputies after being harassed by another person they had a restraining order against. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reported getting a call to a home near Whitethorn about Wade Patrick Hayes. A court order says he's not allowed to be near the person who called for help, nor was Hayes allowed to have guns or ammo, which he was found with. The reporting party says Hayes was at the bottom of their driveway threatening and yelling at them. Hayes was arrested for violating the court order and making criminal threats. His home was searched, and a loaded semi-automatic rifle was also found along with more ammo. He's further charged with possessing the firearm and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm he was being held on \$20,000.00 bail.

Sheet1

After an armed robbery was reported in Ukiah, police were searching for a maroon Chevy Corsica. Police say there were reports of an armed robbery in the 600 block of Talmage Road where several people were seen in the Corsica with a sawed-off shotgun. The person who called police say they swiped his cellphone. The car was seen later with three Hispanic men in face masks and one black female. The CHP caught up with the car and detained the four inside who were in possession of a shotgun.

Reports of a vegetation fire along the Mendocino Coast had firefighters on the scene. The report this weekend from the town of Mendocino where one structure was threatened. The spot fire was behind a home under a canopy and one fire engine responded and put it down.

A man from Santa Clara found living in Willits is in trouble for not registering as a sex offender upon his relocation. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says Donald Wiltse may have failed to register since 2021. They arrested him and booked him on \$15,000.00 bail.

The Governor has appointed a new Supervisor for District 4 in Lake County. After the last Supervisor left to take a job on as a teacher, Governor Newsom announced Michael Green would take the seat, but not until after the New Year. Tina Scott resigned in August and the Board was discussing for several weeks how to fill the seat. The county's administrative officer thanked the Governor for taking time out to appoint Green, and says he'll be sworn in tomorrow. Green has been a member of the Lakeport City Council since 2020 and has to resign that seat because he cannot serve in both capacities.

Jobless numbers are in, and the state reports a record low unemployment rate. In Lake County, the report is that the September's unemployment rate was 4.2%, down 2/10ths from a month before. And over two points lower than 2021. In Mendocino County, the rate was even lower for September at 3.2%. Nationally, the unemployment rate was pretty close to that, at 3.5%, down from 3.7% in August and 4.7% in September of last year. Lake Co News reports the state of California also added jobs each month of the last year and has recovered 99.1% of the jobs that were lost during the lockdowns related to the coronavirus recession from February to April 2020. Neighboring counties were also fairly low, with Napa at 2.6%, Sonoma at 2.5% and Yolo at 3.1%.

Over one million dollars in improvements are coming to libraries in Lake County, thanks to state grant funding. The Governor announced more than a quarter billion dollars in grants to public libraries across the state in September. The money from \$439 million set aside for the first round of the Building Forward Library Improvement Grant Program. Lake County got nearly \$1,100,000 for its four libraries. That means the Lakeport Library will get over \$633,000; the Middletown Library is getting over \$193,500; Redbud Library is getting almost, \$254,500; and the Upper Lake Library's receiving \$18,600.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Registrar of Voters has officially announced what to do if you have not received a mail-in-ballot or lost yours. Registrar Katrina Bartolomie announced last week they've only had to reissue two ballots so far for the November General Election, and both were in the same neighborhood. On Thursday she released instructions for getting a replacement mail-in ballot for voters who believe theirs has been lost or stolen in the mail. Someone reported to Bartolomie that all neighbors on Road D had their ballots stolen. The Mendocino Voice reported there were also reports by the Registrar of the same thing for the primary in June. If you think your ballot may have been stolen or lost, you should call the Registrar so they can cancel that ballot and reissue a valid one.

Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire says the Skunk Train has been rejected a takeover bid for 13 miles of the Great Redwood Trail. The Senator reported last week the Federal Surface Transportation Board said no to Mendocino Railway's attempt to interrupt miles of trails that will ultimately link the Bay Area to Humboldt County on the former rail line all along the North Coast. He says the win also means protections for 175 miles of rail line forever through the rail banking process; and that groundbreaking along the Great Redwood Trail can begin. There also happens to be a town hall with McGuire on the decision and the plans ahead, tonight at 6:30. RSVP on his website:
<https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/october-24-great-redwood-trail-master-plan-kick-town->

The CEO's report in Mendocino County talks about the planned expansion of the Ukiah jail. CEO Darcie Antle says the jail expansion project is continuing through the end of the year, and that right now they're working on parking and safety during continued construction. The report touches on the work being done on the West Campus Fiber optic build-out for the jail and General Services building, also until the end of the year. Antle also reports that as far as the Building Division, there are more permit reviews for smaller projects for field inspectors during office hours on all sorts of projects. The county also received money for more vehicle charging stations and new and replacement generators at certain facilities.

We may be about to deal with some Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) in Lake County. The forecast calls for possibly windy weather, especially to parts of Northern and Central California starting over the weekend into today. That mixed with the severe drought and dry vegetation is a lethal mix for possible wildfire ignition. PG&E sent two-day-ahead notifications to nearly 6,000 customers in 13 counties and two tribal communities just in case. They say they might have to de-energize powerlines, but that less than 100 people in the counties would be impacted. PG&E activated its Emergency Operations Center last week just in case. Customers were being notified the end of last week with either a text, email or robo-call.
<http://www.pge.com/pspsupdates>.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) continuing to be proactive against possible wildfires is conducting aerial patrols in Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt counties. There are helicopter patrols scheduled as part of their Vegetation Management Program to locate any dead or dying trees. They started the patrols yesterday, checking electric transmission lines including in Clearlake, Lower Lake, Kelseyville, Middletown, Lucerne, Clearlake Oaks, Upper Lake, Lakeport, Cobb (Geysers), Hopland, Mendocino, Gualala, Fort Bragg, Philo, Ukiah, Elk and Point Arena. They could be flying out of Ukiah and flights may hover as low as 300 feet. They should be done with all 10/25/22 of the work Friday, depending on the weather.

A strike by therapists at Kaiser Permanente in Northern California is over as the union members gave the thumbs up for a new contract. This puts an end to a 10-week strike, the longest by mental health workers in the nation's history. Most union members voted to accept the new contract after two days of back and forth. The National Union of Healthcare Workers represents 2,000 non-psychiatrist therapists in Northern California for Kaiser. It's a 4 year contract that will be retroactive to September 2021, expiring in September 2025.

A new report says most students in the state of California are behind in school. The national report shows less than half of students polled were proficient in reading and only a third were performing at grade level in math. These are the first statewide test scores since 2019 and could prove there's been a learning loss due to the pandemic and at home school, instead of in-person, face to face learning. The state superintendent of public instruction says indeed, there's a lot of work ahead, and that "gaps that we were working to close before the pandemic have persisted."

Three people who've been accused of ripping off victims of the massive Tubbs fire in 2017 cannot plead no contest. The three family members, a husband, wife and their daughter, who were working as building contractors, are accused of cheating 16 survivors of the fire out of cash. At the family's sentencing hearing yesterday, the judge tossed out the trio's no contest plea, from back in April. And during a court recess, some of the family's victims said they just wanted closure, but others said they hope the latest development means the defendants get a stiffer sentence.

Gas prices are still declining, thankfully. The average price for a gallon of regular dropped three-cents overnight to \$5.80... still high, but still, it's 32-cents less than last Tuesday and 19-cents less than a month ago. Marin County was at around five-68, Lake County at five-72, Mendocino County around five-83, and Napa County has five-89.

As we head into the colder months in California, health experts say we could see another surge in COVID. There are reports of various coronavirus subvariants slowly arriving in the state. In Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area, they are seeing a change. There had been a steady decline in new cases. Right now, one of the omicron subvariants, known as BA.5 is the dominant version across the country. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported over 60% of all new coronavirus cases were that strain.

Sheet1

Looking for a new furry companion? The Clearlake Animal Shelter is in need of not only people to adopt, but to foster too. Last week at the last City Council meeting there were shelter staff on hand who talked up the animals that can be made part of your family. They said, as of last Thursday, that there were 30 adoptable dogs and 70 were being held at the shelter. Apparently, there's a crisis across the country with way too many animals available for adoption. Some shelters have even stopped accepting animals. They also say volunteers who can help exercise the dogs are also welcome.

The Great ShakeOut had millions of Californians registered. 9.8 million in all and thousands here on the North Coast. That included individuals, families, schools, businesses, and other organizations who pretended they were experiencing an earthquake and practiced what they would be doing, should a real earthquake occur. There was a 23% increase in the amount of registrants along the North Coast this year. If you are not signed up for the alerts, check out MyShake and if your county has their own alert system.

A candidate forum got a good turnout in Fort Bragg. The League of Women Voters held the forum October 14th ahead of the mid-term election next month. They also live-streamed the event on the Fort Bragg City Government video site. They had a total of eight candidates there, and another turned in written responses to the moderator. There are four city council seats currently open. Three are for four-year terms, and one is a two-year term. That seat has only one candidate, Lindy Peters.

A man from Potter Valley has died at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Police say it was probably because the man had a medical condition. It happened Monday afternoon at Elliot's Christmas Tree lot. Workers there found the man had died on the property's west upper parking lot. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. says detectives and CHP officers said they believed it was a "a natural related death", but there will be a "standard coroner's investigation" even though there were no obvious signs of foul play.

Microbusiness owners can still apply for a grant from the Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program from the state. \$2,500 grants are still being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible businesses until the money is depleted. It's compliments of the state in partnership with the Economic Development and Financing Corporation (EDFC) and is being funded by the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. To be eligible a business has to be open and operating, have a plan to stay that way, have been open and operating before December 31st of 2019, have less than 5 full-time equivalent employees and had <5 full-time equivalent employees in 2019 and 2020. And had less than \$50,000 in business revenue in 2019. You also cannot have received a grant already.

Please contact EDFC at robert@edfc.org or by phone at (707) 234-5705 with any questions and support with the application process. Assistance is available in Spanish upon request.

Sheet1

A pretty strong earthquake has struck the Bay Area. The 5.1 magnitude earthquake yesterday just before noon near San Jose in Santa Clara County. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) reported they were actively coordinating with local authorities to check for any possible damage or issues that came up after the earthquake and provide any assistance needed at state level. Apparently, as many as 100,000 individuals were alerted an earthquake was about to occur from the state's earthquake early warning system. That notice varied from two seconds for those very near the epicenter to 18 seconds for those in San Francisco. It came just after the Great California ShakeOut Tour.

For more information on how to practice how to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," visit <https://earthquake.ca.gov/>.

The Mendocino County Planning Commission is planning to hear recommendations about rentals of single-family homes. The Planning and Building Services Director found that a county code related to Room and Board should apply to single-family housing rentals as transient habitation or accessory use as being customary, appropriate, incidental and subordinate to the principally permitted residential use of the property. The chair of the Planning Commission created an ad hoc commission last year on the matter of interpreting this county code. So next Thursday the commission will hear the recommendations from the committee. It might include adoption of a resolution to clarify the wording in the county code related to transient living in a single-family home.

A new partnership has been announced between Mendocino College and Arizona State University for seamless transfers. The new MyPath2ASU™ program would allow Mendocino students to plan ahead for their transfer to ASU. It includes tools for the transfer students from accredited, U.S. institutions after the student earns enough credits or gets an associate degree from a community college or university. The vice president of Student Services at Mendocino College says they're proud to partner with ASU on ways "to increase transfer opportunities" which will open doors for students by giving them access to high-quality educational programs and the resources of a large university.

District 4 has a new supervisor in Lake County. The Governor appointed Michael Green to take over for Tina Scott last week. Green was sworn in yesterday morning by the county's Registrar of Voters. It was added to the agenda, but Green will not be working on the Board until next year. He has to resign also from the Lakeport City Council. The Lakeport City Manager Kevin Ingram and Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Nick Walker were there for the swearing in. The latest interim Public Health Officer gave a COVID update to the board too. Dr. Karl Sporer says the pandemic is waning and we are fortunate, but there's also concern about a wave this year. He also spoke about flu and COVID vaccines and the upcoming flu season, mixing with COVID which likes to peak in cold weather as more people gather indoors.

The Lake County Planning Commission is taking up work on county parks. When they reconvene this week the commission will have a public hearing on improvements to more than a dozen parks including in Clearlake Oaks, Kelseyville, Lower Lake, Lucerne, Middletown and Nice. The plan by Public Services is for multiple improvements to restrooms, planting trees, and installing shade structures, signs, drinking fountains, trash bins and benches.

Sheet1

The winners of the latest Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation Excellence in Nursing Award have been announced. The 2022 Charlene McAllister Excellence in Nursing Award goes to Emily Anthony, an ICU, Critical Care Nurse at Adventist Health Mendocino Coast; and Chama Rasheed, a Certified Nursing Assistant and Medical Records Manager at Sherwood Oaks Post Acute Care. The award recognizes and promotes exemplary dedication of nurses on the Mendocino Coast and for caregivers who work to positively impact patient outcomes and experience, serve as role models for their peers, and embody nursing ethics in their work. Six other nominees were also recognized.

That woman from Nevada supposedly seen lighting a fire in Lake County will finally have her day in court. 39-year-old Nickelina Rose Williams of Fallon, Nevada was arrested one year ago after a fire erupted along Highway 29 around the time she was seen nearby. A CHP officer who responded says he saw Williams walking along the highway on the southbound side near the fire's ignition point. She told the officer she knew nothing about it, but witnesses placed her there with a lighter, which the officer found. She was found incompetent to stand trial, but her competency has been restored with medication and she's due in court for her preliminary hearing Monday.

Free trees are being offered to PG&E customers as part of the company's Energy-Saving Trees Program. The energy company is giving away 1,500 free trees for eligible customers across its service territory. Trees are being delivered for free compliments of the Arbor Day Foundation and PG&E. They will also explain where the best location would be on your property. You just have to plug your address into a space on a website to get your tree. PG&E's offering its "Right Tree, Right Place" help so you don't accidentally interfere with overhead or underground electric or gas lines. Those eligible are encouraged to sign up at <http://www.arborday.org/pge>. Customers can choose • Japanese Lilac • Kousa
10/27/22 Dogwood • Little Leaf Linden • Service Berry

A massive fine is slapped on PG&E for a fire near Redding two years ago. The Zogg Fire broke out west of Redding and marched flames through over 56,000 acres. The company was already indicted on manslaughter charges for the fire which was blamed for 4 deaths. The fire was contained in less than a month, but state regulators say they're fining PG&E \$155.4 million dollars. The Public Utilities Commission blamed the company after a power line hit by a pine tree ignited the fire. The utility company has not had a break after it filed for bankruptcy for more fires it was deemed responsible for. The utilities commission says it's reviewing the fine proposal.

After an armed robbery is reported in Ukiah, a group of men are arrested. Police say they got a call late last Sunday night to an armed robbery where three men and one woman were seen leaving the area. As we reported earlier this week, three Latino men and one Black woman were seen leaving the area in a red or maroon colored vehicle. A 42-year-old man from Ukiah says they were armed and swiped his phone by his house. He says the woman screamed that he crashed into her car, but he knew he did not. Then he says the three men jumped him, one had a gun. All four would-be criminals took off. Police put out an alert to find the car and a CHP officer stopped the car, finding a shotgun and the stolen cell phone inside. The four were arrested, the woman was actually an underage female from Clearlake, and the men were from Santa Rosa and Antioch. They're charged with robbery, conspiracy, possessing a shotgun, accessory after the fact and giving a phony id to cops.

Part of the Weger Ranch up for grabs for the Save the Redwoods League. The nonprofit has announced it has an option to buy a conservation easement on part of the 3,862-acre Weger Ranch. It has a 1.25-mile border along the Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. The conservation easement would mean the League would be able to buffer the old-growth redwoods at the same time expanding the redwood conservation there. It's also part of the League's Montgomery Woods Initiative which they announced in September. Then the League purchased the 453-acre Atkins Place property in partnership with California State Parks. This new purchase would also add an 80-acre section of Weger Ranch to be incorporated into the Reserve. Weger has a mix of coast redwood and Douglas-fir forest, and almost 400 old-growth trees on the property.

Two candidates who were running to be on the Fort Bragg City Council are out. Ricardo Garcia announced he and his family were intending to move from the area, so he wanted to be transparent about his plans. He says it was a difficult decision but had gotten a lot of support from the community. He wished all those still running the best of luck. This comes after Alberto Adalco said he would be withdrawing from the race a few weeks ago after he was caught on police bodycam footage trying to bully a cop, then urinating in public, which was also caught on camera. Not to confuse matters but another candidate who dropped her name off the ballot is now a write-in candidate for one of the four-year seats, Tess Albin-Smith. The election is two Tuesdays away.

Reports to police dispatch in Ukiah that a man was being beaten by another man with a crowbar. Police say they got a call to the intersection of Talmage Road and Airport Park Boulevard. Several people called dispatch to report the beating near the entrance to a Quick Stop gas station on the corner. They described the suspect as a Hispanic man with a long white beard and red shirt who had been riding a bike near the intersection. The victim left before police could question them.

Abortion is on the ballot for California voters. A hot topic nationwide after the Supreme Court tossed Roe vs. Wade this summer. An amendment to the state constitution to enshrine the state law as it stands now to permit abortion up to 24 weeks, or expand the timing to allow the procedure at any point in pregnancy, for any reason. Proposition 1 on the November Ballot. The constitutional amendment does not talk about viability as a limitation. But over the summer it came up in the debate for the proposition and at multiple committee hearings, where supporters weren't sure what to do. Apparently, doctors were involved in drafting the amendment and they say they left the word viability out on purpose.

Another year of drought seems to be in the offing as forecasters say we can expect another La Nina weather pattern the rest of the year. Weather.gov says it could also get worse through the usual rainy season with nearly 100% of the state in moderate to severe drought. Lake Co News reports Lake County is in the severe drought category. And the City of Lakeport which relies on ground water wells in the Scotts Valley is asking folks to continue to conserve water when possible, even if it rains hard. Some of the things to consider skipping: hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes, washing your cars, boats, RV's, use recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, don't water a lawn and allow water to runoff, turn off ornamental turf irrigation and use water-saving equipment in your home and outdoors.

The Lakeport City Council needs some candidates. After one member resigned to be on the Board of Supervisors, the city needs folks for two seats. First, in August, it was Mireya Turner who resigned because she was named as the new director of the Lake County Community Development Dept. Just this week councilmember Michael Green was sworn into the Board of Supervisors after being assigned by the Governor to fill Tina Scott's seat after she resigned to take a teaching position. The council appointed George Spurr, a former councilman, to be the interim member for Turner's seat, that term expires at the end of the year. The City Council will take up the matter at their next meeting. And the city will be accepting applications from Lakeport residents to serve the city. You must be 18 years of age to apply.

Cal Fire has lifted the burn ban. Cal Fire Mendocino Unit Chief Luke Kendall formally canceled the burn permit suspension and says anyone who has current and valid agriculture and residential burn permits can now get back to burning on permissible burn days. Agriculture burns must be inspected by the fire agency before you burn. You can get your permit online at the Cal Fire site. They're only for folks who live in the State Responsibility Area or in the Cal Fire jurisdictional authority. You also have to check with the Mendocino County Air 10/28/22 Management District to make sure it's a permissive burn day.

Impaired drivers beware... The CHP and California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) are working together the next year on a campaign to slow the number of crashes caused by impaired drivers. Their "Don't Drive Impaired" campaign runs through next September. The CHP reports 669 people were killed and 10,646 were injured in DUI crashes in 2020. They say they are preventable tragedies and there is a continued need to reduce impaired driving. The Office of Traffic Safety is paying for the campaign through grants for DUI checkpoints, and traffic safety education efforts throughout the state.

Sheet1

A new effort in Calif to protect humpback whales from getting entangled has begun. The Center for Biological Diversity is suing the National Marine Fisheries to force them to protect the endangered Pacific humpbacks from getting caught up in drift gillnets. There have been about a dozen entanglements over the last two fishing seasons. The lawsuit filed yesterday claims the fishery's excessive harm to endangered humpback whales violates the Endangered Species Act by using the mile-long hanging nets, which are left overnight, to catch Pacific bluefin tuna, swordfish and thresher sharks.

Before that earthquake hit the Bay Area earlier this week millions people got shake alerts. It means those who registered through the ShakeAlert system had several seconds' warning before the magnitude 5.1 earthquake hit near San Jose Tuesday. A pretty good-sized quake, the largest since the 2014 when a 6.0 hit Napa. The ShakeAlert operations team says over 2.1 million earthquake alerts were sent out. The Governor's office says most of those were sent to Android smartphones. Those phones have the alerts manufactured into the phones operating system though. There were also about 100,000 users alerted through the free MyShake app for both iOS and Androids. The warnings generally went out to an area within 10 miles of the epicenter.

A new study says about 30% of blackened trees in the Sierra Nevada mountains died in the last decade. The UC Berkeley study showed from 2011 to 2020 fire, drought and drought-related bark beetle infestations killed a third of the forests in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range between Lake Tahoe and Kern County. The lead author of the study says, "it's kind of a wakeup call." The study showed not only a decline in the total conifer forest in the area, but also that half of mature forest habitat and 85% of high-density mature forests are completely gone or they're now low-density forests.

Police are on the lookout for a teenage girl they disappeared from Clearlake. 16-year-old Lilah Ryan Allen is described as about 5'6", 180 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing pink zip up, black sweats with white stripe, and black vans. She was last seen at a bus stop on Austin Rd in Clearlake around 7:00am.

Congressman Mike Thompson made an appearance at the Moose Lodge in Clearlake Oaks. Thompson was the featured speaker at the October dinner for the Clearlake Oaks-Glenhaven Business Association at the Moose Lodge last night. He talked about items of interest for those in Lake County, for which he represents the entirety of since the 2020 US Census. Some of the items he covered included safe route for schools through a Community Development Block Grant Sidewalk Project, federal funding for infrastructure projects and money to move the Lake County Sheriff's Office into the former National Guard Armory facility in Lakeport. He mentioned how excited he was too to be able to represent the entire county not, now just a chunk of it. Folks at the lodge got to question Thompson after his presentation.

Sheet1

A recommendation has been made by vaccination advisors for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for all kids to get a COVID-19 vaccine. But it's so far not mandatory in Calif. The recommendation for children doesn't mean a state needs to require it for attendance. If that happens the state Legislature or the state Department of Public Health would decide. That was attempted by the Governor and lawmakers, but it failed and it's not expected to be picked up again unless there's a huge surge in cases and deaths.

More than \$300,000 is going to the City of Ukiah for broadband. The money to be used to dig groundwork for a new high-speed network. The \$311,000 grant comes from the California Public Utilities Commission for the 'City of Ukiah Digital Infrastructure Design and Implementation Plan'. The Community Development Department was at the city council meeting last week and informed it's all just the first steps and once the design and engineering work is done, they hope for more grant money to finish the build out of the high-speed, broadband network. The work within city limits, including in unserved and underserved areas of the Public Utility Commission's "California Interactive Broadband map."

Nearly a half million dollars has been secured by the Lake County Winery Association to put Lake County wines on the map. The \$440,476 grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the campaign "When You Think Wine, Think Lake County". The initiative to attract younger consumers. Many Lake County vineyards supply grapes to Napa County. Lake County is thought of as an important wine grape growing region with family owned and operated wineries. The idea is to get younger generations looking for smaller production and boutique wineries, and authentic experiences to come to Lake County. For more info on the Lake County Winery Association promotions of the Lake County wine region, visit <http://www.lakecountywineries.org>

Since there's a threat to Humpback whales getting caught up in Dungeness crab traps, the start to the season is on hold. Both Humpback and Blue whales are in the area where anglers set their pots for the start of the season, which was supposed to be this Saturday. The traps can stay where they are, but they're temporarily restricted in all fishing zones by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The commercial Dungeness crab fishery south of the Sonoma/Mendocino County line was set for Nov. 15th but will be delayed due to 10/31/22 the amount of humpback whales and the potential for entanglement.

The Lake County Sheriff says he's retiring at the end of the year. He announced on Facebook he'd retire a few days before his third term was supposed to start. It comes after an announcement by the Governor that certain law enforcement elected officials would have to stay in office 6 years instead of four to align with presidential elections, for some reason. Sheriffs and district attorneys will now be in office six years, just this one time, then every four years again. Confusing for sure. Sheriffs in the Emerald Triangle have spoken out including Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin who said the bill was a main reason he was retiring early. The legislation was apparently a way to get maximum voter turnout. Sheriff Matt Kendall says he thinks it's partisan politics. And the Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal called it a power grab and Mendo DA Eyster said it was a bait and switch.

Sheet1

Improvements are coming to the North Coast from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration. Congressman Huffman announced more than \$8M dollars for the Port Infrastructure Development Program for port maintenance and improvements in Eureka and Crescent City. The money to repair crumbling infrastructure Huffman says will also help restore the global supply chain. Nearly all of the money is going to Crescent City for a new seawall and to repair and renovate a seafood packing and truck loading area. The Port Infrastructure Development Program awards money to improve safety, efficiency, or reliability so goods can be moved into, out of, around, or within a port.

Fentanyl poisoning is being blamed for one-fifth of youth deaths in the state of Calif. A study for the year 2020 showed kids 15-24 years old were dying because of the drug. That's over six times the amount killed three years earlier. The report from epidemiology and health services researchers at UCLA also says most who die from the overdoses have no idea the drug is even contained in whatever it was they took in the first place. One of the study's authors says they're not trying to scare parents, just trying to shed a light on what's happening, which is much different now after its dramatic rise in 2020. Fentanyl killed about 4,000 people in Calif. in 2020, double the amount in 2019.

Lake County Supervisors would like a raise. At their meeting tomorrow Supervisors are looking at a possible 38% raise, more to add to all of the recent pay bumps to county workers since 2019. It's not on the timed agenda, so it will be thrown out to the ether, to raise members pay after a study justified pay raises for many 3 years ago. The classification and compensation study triggered the board approving \$21 million raises during the pandemic. Now it's their turn. The County Administrative Officer's report shows the board did not take a raise, but doled out many. Right now they each make just under \$64,000 a year and the chair gets another couple grand. They want well over \$88,000.

North Coast Congressmembers John Garamendi and Mike Thompson say they've secured several million dollars for school meals. The USDA Marketing Service, the two Congressional members and Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry have announced \$23 million as part of a CO-OP agreement for more nutritious, local foods for school meal programs. The money comes by way of the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program. The California Department of Education is buying and distributing food and drinks for kids through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. They also say they're healthy foods and unique to their geographic area, with the goal of improving child nutrition and building new relationships between schools and local farmers.

California has an urgent reminder for parents this Halloween. The state Department of Public Health says to keep cannabis edibles away from children as some products that contain THC may look like candy, like gummies and lollipops. That they say could trick children into trying them. Officials say they've already seen several cases of that accidentally happening. They warn edibles can make kids sick and even cause some to die.

Sheet1

Several of Sonoma County's law enforcement agencies say they're trying to calm fears of kids getting rainbow-colored fentanyl mixed in with their Halloween candy tonight. Police say rainbow-colored fentanyl has been seen in the region, but there aren't any immediate or known worries about trick-or-treaters being targeted with it. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office says there's no evidence the dangerous and deadly opioid is being handed out specifically to children. Concerns started in August, when the DEA warned people to watch out for drug dealers targeting kids with opioids that look like candy.

A study of transportation needs and solutions is being conducted by the Mendocino Council of Governments. This is for the communities of Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland. This is a five-minute survey online they are asking the public to take. The Council staff says it's the second round of public input after a series of community workshops in August. They say it's to help them "quantify the needs" they heard about and also test some of the innovative ideas for transportation solutions they say are now emerging. Those participating can be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift cards. bit.ly/MCOGMobility.

For further information, contact project manager Loretta Ellard at lellard@dbcteam.net or 707-234-3434.

The next Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group is set at the Casper Scales. The meeting is 2 weeks from tomorrow, November 15th. The agenda will be released once they get closer to the date. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (JAG) is part of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection with a mission of advice and recommendations to CAL FIRE and the Board regarding issues relevant to the periodic review of the JDSF Management Plan required under Board policy; ongoing implementation issues; and policy matters relevant to JDSF.

For more information about the Jackson Demonstration State Forest visit: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/resource-protection-imp>

The Mendocino County Cannabis Dept. says they've been in touch with well over 100 applicants who are eligible for the Good Standing Portal. One hundred twenty-three (123) applicants were notified October 24th and 25th that they were eligible. They can access the portal starting tomorrow morning. The deadline is 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2023. The Good Standing applicants who were deprioritized can still submit materials through the portal. But they won't get reviewed until they meet the conditions to reprioritize their application. A reminder is going out weekly about the window to apply. Check the county's website for more information.

Tens of millions of shares have been sold for the PG&E Fire Victim Trust so the utility can meet the rules set up for payments to victims under the bankruptcy filing. The company announced selling 35 million shares of PG&E stock to help pay victims of fires in Northern California from 2015 to 2018. As you may recall, the trust was set up back in July of 2020 and funded with cash and shares of stock as part of the company's Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization. Almost 477,000,000 shares of common stock have been transferred to the Trust after another 750,000 or so were transferred in August of 2020. The Trust has reportedly paid out over \$5.36 billion to victims of the 2015 Butte Fire, 2017 North Bay Fires, and 2018 Camp Fire.

No word how a fatal crash happened in Ukiah a few days ago. A Ford Escape was headed north on US-101 near La Franci Road. When the driver made an unsafe turn, they left the road onto the gravel shoulder and hit a tree. After crashing into the tree, the car burst into flames and the driver died at the scene. The CHP says they're unsure if drugs or alcohol were factors in the Saturday crash. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is investigating and says they'll 11/01/22 release the name of the driver after their family is notified.

A new report says top jobs in higher education in California more oftentimes than not, go to white men. The report from a professor at USC says there's a "social justice urgency and a political and economic urgency". The report shows California is in need of more "equity-minded" leadership, and says institutions of higher education have "been designed by whites for whites." The College Futures Foundation had the report put together. "Whiteness Rules: Racial Exclusion in Becoming an American College President" and "Tools to Redesign Presidential Search for Racial Equity" are both for presidential search teams to come up with a way to find candidates of color in a more equitable way.

Why are more violent prisoners without needed rehabilitation being released early from prison? That's what the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) wants to know. The organization trains and advocates for elected district attorneys, city attorneys with criminal divisions, and thousands of prosecutors. CBS News reports some prisoners who've been released have gone out and committed more serious crimes afterwards. CBS reported the case of a mass shooter in Sacramento first denied parole after a fight with another inmate, but since a domestic violence conviction was not considered a violent crime, he was released.

It's First Friday again and for that Grace Hudson Museum will open to the public. From 5 to 8 p.m. Friday you can visit the National Native American Heritage Month exhibit, including a flute player live with the exhibition, "Gathering Time: Pomo Art During the Pandemic". There are 15 contemporary Pomo artists on display, and Little Bear and friends have an interactive table of Native American tools and toys. Light refreshments will be served.

Sheet1

The CHP is cracking down on illegal sideshows, takeovers, and street racing after receiving a federal grant. This is to curb reckless driving in the state after \$5.5 million was included in the 2022-23 state budget. The CHP's Campaign to Eliminate Street Racing and Sideshows received another \$1.5 million for a taskforce to slow the amount of fatal and injury-related crashes due to the illegal acts. The Calif. Highway Patrol reported in 2019-2020 speed was one reason for almost 40% of all fatal and injury crashes in California. Then it went up a year later by 21%. The law enforcement agency says they're still getting tons of reports about the illegal acts, which the CHP commissioner says are a "threat to all who use California's roadways".

The State Attorney General is reportedly checking into any conflicts the Mendocino County District Attorney may have deciding if the former Ukiah police chief should be prosecuted. The State Atty. General has apparently confirmed they're considering if DA David Eyster should continue as the lead prosecutor if the criminal assault complaint against former Chief Noble Waidelich moves forward. It comes after the DA also just got the report from an outside investigation from Sonoma County about the case, which Eyster has not released to the public. It was Eyster who asked for the state AG to review the case after potential conflicts were raised in the case. A former county probation officer and Waidelich's ex-fiance alleges the former chief abused her, then used it against her at her job.

Covered Calif. is open for enrollment for 2023. The Affordable Care Act marketplace is open to all who need health insurance except those who can access healthcare policy through their job. Right now, there are about 1.7 million people who get healthcare policies through Covered California. The premiums depend on how much money a household brings in each year. If folks meet a minimum, they may get a government subsidy, but if they make too much, they cannot. Those who sign up for the "minimal essential" coverage through an employer's health plan also do not get the subsidy.

PG&E Corp. is asking the state to move forward with an extension of Diablo Canyon after previously moving to close it. The company applied through the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to renew the nuclear plant's license and put off its planned 2025 closure. The San Luis Obispo County plant reportedly gives the state about 9% of its power. The Governor was opposed to keeping the plant open, then reversed that, signing a bill to keep it open until 2030. It also allows PG&E to take out a loan of as much as \$1.4 billion from the state for upgrades it needs to postpone the plant's closure.

The latest Mendocino County CEO report has been released to the public. In it CEO Darcie Antle writes from the cash the county got from the US Government because of the pandemic, it is okay to use the money for lost revenue, to support public health and economic response, pay for eligible workers performing essential work, and investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The county had until the end of 2024 to designate projects that had to be done by the end of 2026. The county got almost \$17 million dollars, of which 100% has been allotted, for County Core services, infrastructure projects, and emergency funding, plus employee stipends and related benefits. The report also updated on PG&E settlement funds and where they're going. CEO Antle says there were 81 unique contracts to outside agencies and more are in the offing.

Sheet1

A new way to track where rape kits are finally comes to Calif. Back in 2017 a law was enacted requiring law enforcement agencies to get evidence related to sex assaults into labs within 20 days. The labs then had 120 days to process them. But there have been ongoing delays in testing evidence from sex assaults. 11/02/22 Now the state has hired a coordinator who will work with

investigators, medical facilities and others to keep track of evidence collected from victims. Then it's put online as required by a law approved last year. The Calif. Atty General says it's to finally end the long backlog of rape kits in the state, and keep victims informed of their progress. California's one of 2 dozen or so states to come up with this sort of tracking system.

City leaders in Lakeport are trying to drum up new business including potential retailers to take over vacant spaces. The City Council got a report this week of the possibility of retailers taking over the old Kmart building. They voted unanimously to extend a contract with a consultant called the Retail Coach to help recruit businesses. The city manager says the company was hired in 2019 to help as the big box store closed, but then the pandemic hit. The downtown core is where the contract is focused. They're looking at both national and regional retailers, that may include franchises, as well as independent businesses.

The end of another fire season as rain pounded Northern Calif. this week. At the Cal Fire Air Attack Base in Ukiah, they were moving the tankers out for the season. The contract for this year expired on Halloween. On Tuesday, the tankers flew away, but Cal Fire says they're watching the weather. There is however one person staffed at the Ukiah airport because their air base is year round.

A new report from Calif. state scientists says wildfires, drought, extreme heat and more are pushing climate change faster. The latest "Indicators of Climate Change in California", the 4th edition, was released this week. It shows climate change is changing rapidly and that fossil fuels are having devastating effects on the state. The last edition was four years ago. The latest shows the extreme weather patterns are more intense and erratic. And that people are getting sicker with heat-related illness, valley fever and from inhaling wildfire smoke. The report says even though the state is leading in the effort to fight the climate crisis, time is not on our side.

A group of volunteers has gathered at Glass Beach in Fort Bragg after a sea lion got stuck there. Volunteers there again Monday afternoon, a day after another sea lion had to be rescued near Russian Gulch State Park. The Mendocino Voice reports the Marine Mammal Center (TMMC), said they've had more calls about sea lions that seemed sick, lethargic, or distressed on land in northern Sonoma and Mendocino counties. The Center also says sea lions are a good indicator of the overall health of the ocean. Domoic acid poisoning is one illness, or bacterial infections, that are more prevalent now. The 200 pound sea lion was taken to a hospital in Sausalito.

Sheet1

A busy meeting is planned for the Clearlake City Council. Lake Co News reports the council is taking of several matters, including a housing plan and use agreement, financing for a road project and the city treasurer appointment. The meeting tomorrow night will include public comment. When they get down to business, the council will look at an application and potentially move to adopt the Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program. They're also looking over an agreement between the city of Clearlake, Lake County Economic Development Corp. and Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce for the use of the Clearlake Visitor Center facility. And then on to discuss putting up money to finish a street and storm drainage project.

Since the City of Lakeport is working with its neighboring city Clearlake on police patrols, the City Council is considering ways to recruit more cops. At their meeting Tuesday the council talked about how difficult it's been to recruit new police officers who are qualified. The police chief says in the last 3 decades the City of Lakeport has consistently been losing at least 2 cops a year. But, he says, the last 10 years, it's gone to 3 per year. The city manager chimed in saying it's a state and nationwide issue, not just in Lakeport. They currently have three sergeants, three officers, one officer in field training, one trainee in the academy and one pre-academy trainee. The chief says he's worried about burnout for the current staff, but he doesn't see the hiring crisis improving. The mayor says it's a top priority to keep the department fully staffed.

There's growing concern across the state after children have been getting infected with respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. In Santa Rosa one hospital has reported 222 children had RSV and other respiratory viruses between October 15th and 31st. That hospital treated 59 kids for respiratory viruses during the same period last year. In the past two months, four children between the ages of eleven months and three years have been hospitalized with RSV at Sonoma Valley Hospital. Two children in the same age group were hospitalized with respiratory illnesses at that facility in all of last year.

A woman from Petaluma has won the largest pumpkin award at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show. Cathy Henning's 411-pound jack o'lantern took home the Best of Show blue ribbon. Henning says her pumpkin, which also won the purple Champion ribbon for best in the Harvest division, came from seeds out of Nova Scotia she planted in pure compost. She had to get a crane to pluck the gourd off her 50-acre property to get it to Boonville for the fair at the end of September.

A multi-car crash in Clearlake Oaks triggered multiple charges for a man from Pacifica. The four-car crash in July sent many to the hospital. 39 year old Stephen Robert Williams' lawyer was in court without him this week where they discussed collecting evidence and subpoenaed records. The prosecution asked for the case to be continued so they could get the needed records. So the case will continue next month. It's the second continuation after some of the alleged victims also couldn't be found to testify. Back in April Williams was in court regarding a warrant for his arrest. In the meantime he may not drink or go anywhere where booze is sold. Williams is charged with seven counts of DUI causing injury and another three for DUI of alcohol for the July crash on Highway 20.

Sheet1

PG&E Corp. has announced they're doling out as much as \$100 million in possible damages due to the Mosquito Fire. The company was facing lawsuits for the fire this September that blackened nearly 77,000 acres across Placer and El Dorado counties. The company did not admit fault but announced they will send money to residents who lost their homes in the wildfire. They're already paid out hundreds of millions more in damage from wildfires the last 7 years. Those impacted by the Mosquito Fire would be reimbursed within 75 days of the company receiving the claim. The fire burned 78 homes and was only contained last week. The energy company said they were sued by 34 homeowners and it was reasonable they'd incur a financial loss.

Christmas tree permits are being made available. As of tomorrow, you can go to the Mendocino National Forest and cut your own tree. The acting forest supervisor says, it's a special experience as it helps people connect to public lands, creates treasured family memories, and benefits the health of the forest. There are a limited number of permits which are good until New Year's Eve. You can get your permit online by visiting Recreation.gov and search by forest name. There's also an interactive map to see all the locations. There are instructions and guidelines noted. Only one permit per household is allowed. It's \$10/tree plus a \$2.50 transaction fee. Besides online you can also go to the Forest Supervisors office in Willows, Upper Lake Ranger Station, Covelo Ranger Station, Upper Lake Grocery, M&M Feed in Covelo, Keith's Family Foods, also in Covelo and the Covelo Volunteer Fire Department.

11/03/22

A man in Ukiah has been arrested after Deputies say he was threatening others and swinging a metal pipe around. Deputies got a call on Halloween to the 2400 block of North State Street, telling the suspect, Michael Lucas to drop the pipe, which he did. They say he also had a short piece of hose and a bucket, plus he seemed like he was high. They say he was also talking nonsense and they couldn't understand him and believed he would be unable to care for himself or be safe around others. They also found he had probably stolen gasoline with the hose and bucket, so they arrested him. Lucas was also on active Post Release Community Service, so he's charged with violating his supervision and Public Intoxication Drugs/Alcohol.

A countywide park project has been approved by the Lake County Planning Commission. At their meeting last week, the commission considered the Public Services Department's parks improvement project, involving over a dozen parks after Caltrans announced money was coming for a Beautification Initiative Project. The Clean California Local Grant Program awarded \$1,358,545 to the county. Lake Co News reports improvements will include new bathrooms at two parks, new security systems at three, and signage, benches, trees, shade structures and trash receptacles. The commission unanimously approved the work.

Sheet1

A warning from Lakeport Police who says there's a scammer amongst us pretending they're a police officer, then they try to steal money. Police say they got wind of the scam yesterday, that someone was impersonating Lakeport Police Sgt. Victor Rico. Lake Co News reports the scammer calls the victim saying they're Rico and they have an arrest warrant for them, and they need to bring cash to an address to get their warrant cleared. The department says there is an Officer Rico on staff, and he or any officer in the agency would never make this call. They say they've received similar reports about scams like this one with threats against the victim if they don't pay up. They ask if you've experienced something like this to call the department right away.

The Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest is transition to winter season closures. Cal Fire's Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit reports seasonal camping closes tomorrow at noon due to changing weather conditions which mean poor road conditions. They usually reopen mid-May for camping if the weather and road conditions are okay. You can still go to the forest for day use, that's from sunrise to sunset. There are closures on certain roads due to the weather, for public health and safety, so do check before you head out. Off-road vehicles and off roading are prohibited.

Please call the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest office at 707-928-4378 should you have any questions.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors back at it, talking finances. The Auditor-Controller-Tax Collector Chamise Cubbison and the Chief Deputy Auditor Controller Kiki DeLong were there and DeLong spoke out about the executive office and the board, not holding back. Cubbison told the board her office was still working on closing out the last fiscal year, which ended June 30th due to staffing shortages and incomplete, late, or inaccurate financial reporting from various departments and the executive office. The Board admitted they've had a hard time filling that office with more staff, that there have been pension errors, health plan problems and more.

Some fun for the whole family is in the offing at Grace Hudson Museum for National Native American Heritage Month. This Saturday is Acorn Day. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. there will be some activities with artist Martina Morgan who is sharing how to whip up acorn mush, a traditional food. Then from 12 noon to 2:00, another artist, painter Bonnie Lockhart will present how to use oak leaves to paint with, which is part of her process. The two artists will have their work displayed too at the Museum's current exhibition, "Gathering Time: Pomo Art During the Pandemic." The days activities are free to Native Americans, current military personnel, and Museum members.

For more information please go to <http://www.gracehudsonmuseum.org> or call (707) 467-2836.

Sheet1

A burning couch carried out of an apartment complex apparently saved the building. That's the word from the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority. The Daily Journal reports the Battalion Chief said they responded early Halloween morning to reports of a structure fire and saw flames but say they were mostly inside the burning couch which was already taken out of the complex. Firefighters say the fire was probably accidental and electrical and began on the floor of the apartment and spread to the couch. They did have smoke detectors, so those inside had a warning and then dragged the couch outside. The chief said, that probably saved the whole building, which has five apartments. They say there was minimal damage to the inside of the apartment and nobody had to be evacuated.

A man accused of starting several fires in the lower Russian River area must undergo a mental competency evaluation. A judge has ordered the Monte Rio man to meet with a doctor to determine his mental competency. Then a report will be due back to the court by December 5th. The man has been charged with ten counts of felony arson in connection with fires that date back to last fall. The suspect was going to appear in court and face the charges Wednesday, until his public defender voiced concerns about his mental competency to stand trial and assist with his defense.

One billion dollars in funding to build affordable housing is now on hold. Gov. Gavin Newsom says local governments are not working hard enough to slow the rise of homelessness in their communities. One billion dollars was to be distributed amongst counties, groups, and public and private service providers after they showed the state plans to reduce homelessness. Now the Governor says the plans they've received so far are subpar. He says the approach is "simply unacceptable" and that "everyone has to do better." The Legislature had set over \$15 billion dollars aside over three years to stop homelessness, 11/04/22 including the grant program Newsom is pausing.

A new report says more outside interests are pouring money into California elections. More mailers are being sent out across the state ahead of Tuesday's election paid for by independent expenditure committees, they are not affiliated with candidates. A good chunk of the spending has gone to Assembly and state Senate races; and the amount of expenditures climbs each year. The committees pouring money into the state also have no campaign contribution limits. \$30 million dollars has reportedly been spent on just 10 legislative races since June for twenty candidates. Next week there are 31 seats in the Assembly and the Senate on the ballot.

Failing equipment is being fixed by the Willow County Water District in the western hills of Ukiah. Massive leaks were found in a pair of storage tanks. The first leak became apparent in the Spanish Canyon Estates neighborhood about three weeks ago. The water district reported to the area and laid down over 100 feet of pipe so leaks would be diverted from one home, but then a couple weeks later, another leak. The GM of the Willow County Water District says they've been having on and off again problems with the tanks above one house. There was a loss of several hundred gallons of water. This week it happened again, with water overflowing out of the tanks, so they were shut off and equipment has been ordered which could take 3 weeks to repair.

Some Ukiah residents reportedly confused about the new utility bills. The city is welcoming feedback from residents. At the City Council meeting this week, the Deputy City Manager said they're working on the bills after receiving feedback, and that the new billing system is quite different and presented some challenges. City staffers are trying to make fixes to the bills to clarify what exactly we are paying for and will update their website to have interactive explanations there soon. There were a slew of changes on the bill, including a longer billing cycle this time around, which confused folks.

A first, times two. The first female sheriff in the state of California is out. And not only that, the former sheriff can no longer hold public office again. Former Santa Clara Sheriff Laurie Smith was tossed from office after she was convicted on all of the six charges at her civil corruption trial. A jury found the prosecutors case against Smith was true, that the 70-year-old traded permits to carry a concealed weapon for political donations. The verdict comes the same week she retired after nearly 50 years with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office.

The California Capitol Christmas tree has made it to Sacramento. The tree from the tiny community of Camino arrived yesterday. Over the next few weeks, the 65-foot tree will be adorned with ornaments made by children and adults with developmental disabilities. Then after Thanksgiving, they will have the annual tree lighting ceremony. Governor Gavin Newsom will help flip the switch on ten-thousand LED lights.

The State Board of Education has heard from those most impacted by policy and curriculum, students. At a presentation earlier this week students spoke up on school safety, socioeconomic equity, teacher misconduct, political literacy and peer counseling. It was part of a four-day conference with several dozen student delegates who are on the Student Advisory Board on Education. They're the voice of almost 6 million students statewide. Those who spoke also said they need better communication between law enforcement and the schools and that there should be new safety guidelines, like posting evacuation maps in every classroom, where to assemble and when to go home. They also want low income kids to have more of a say in expenditures, and more outreach so all communities feel welcome.

A new study says more and more businesses are leaving California. The analysis from the Hoover Institution at Stanford says the amount of businesses who left Calif. in 2021 doubled from the year before. 153 companies relocated in 2021, opposed to 75 that left in 2020 and over three times the amount who split the state in 2018. The conservative think tank reported it was due to economics, like lower taxes, lower cost of living and less regulation. The study showed many went to Texas, including drug distributor McKesson, Tesla, Oracle, Hewlett Packard and Charles Schwab.

There's a rumor circulating no charges will be coming to the former Ukiah Police Chief Noble Waidelich. The press officer for the Mendocino County DA's office and former reporter, Mike Geniella writes in the Anderson Valley Advertiser a complaint by a former girlfriend against the former chief doesn't have enough evidence to convict. Geniella says a law enforcement source with knowledge of the case says the chief's conduct in the police department was "outside of the norm". Waidelich was fired in June. The Mendocino County Sheriff asked for investigators in Sonoma County to handle the inquiry. It comes around the same time former Ukiah officer Kevin Murray got off without jail time for a slew of criminal charges against him.

The Kelseyville Senior Center may be taken over by the County of Lake, but there's some confusion about who owns it. District 5 Supervisor Jessica Pyska had proposed the purchase. The County apparently bought the center 20 years ago, but it seemed a surprise to the board when they first took up the matter in August. So the board is considering pouring money into the center from stimulus money from the Fed due to the pandemic, under the American Rescue Plan Act. The county got \$12.5 million, with one million for senior centers. But the center in Kelseyville may get most of the cash that is supposed to go to all senior centers in Lake County because of maintenance needs. The Board didn't dive into who actually owns the space though and if the purchase of the building went thru 20 years ago.

11/07/22

A contagious infection in cats has been reported in Lake County. Lake County Animal Care and Control says there are multiple documented cases of feline panleukopenia in Lakeport. So far the cases are just on one street, in the 5300 block of Lakeshore Blvd. The disease can infect wild and domestic cats and those who get sick will secrete the virus, through feces, vomit, urine, saliva, and mucus. And then show signs of anorexia, lethargy, watery and possibly bloody diarrhea, and vomiting. The disease can kill an animal if not immediately treated.

The Mendocino County Public Health Dept. has announced they're hosting regular vaccine clinics at the Ukiah Fairgrounds through the year. They have COVID and flu vaccines for anyone age 12 and older, plus the bivalent COVID boosters which are supposed to protect from various strains. Each Saturday through December 17th from 10 AM – 3 PM the shots are available in the Fine Arts building.

Mendocino County has a new campaign for veterans. Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide initiative looks to put the spotlight on veterans for the service they have provided. For this, Mendocino County is lighting up Veterans Memorial buildings green starting today, running through next weekend (this Sunday). The county's also encouraging individuals and businesses to do the same by putting one green light bulb in the entryway of their house or business. This allows veterans to know they're seen, appreciated, and supported. The county says it's also a way to let vets and their families know there are resources available to them. We have about

7,000 veterans being served currently by the Veterans Services Office.

Mendocino County Veterans Services Office may be contacted for services and supports at (707) 463-4226. If you would like information on Mendocino County Department of Social Services, Veterans Services Office, please visit <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/social-services/veterans-services>

Sheet1

The Mendocino County BOS is taking up the quarterly budget at their next meeting. After last week's contentious meeting, partially spent on finances, it could be an interesting one again. As we reported Auditor-Controller-Tax Collector and the Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller were on hand, at times with strong words for the Supes. Apparently, the last Fiscal Year report is still not complete as the Board dives into the next one. We will also hear Executive Office Recommendations; and Adoption of Resolution to amend the already adopted budget, with the recommended action to accept it, and approve adjustments and journal entries. The board will also get a presentation from the Fish and Game Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife and hear from Planning and Building on the matter of Riparian, Stream, and Wetland Protections for the Inland Area of Mendocino County.

A fatal car crash has been reported near Clear Lake. Mendo Fever reports the CHP reported the crash happened where State Route 20 and State Route 53 meet on the east side of the lake. A car reportedly went off the road about four miles east of Clearlake Oaks. The news site reports it's the third death on a rural road in either Mendocino or Lake County in less than one day. The first was in Leggett, the second near Boonville, and last night, the latest, near the lake.

A day ahead of the mid-term election some polling shows the Governor may not get his way bringing the state to all electric vehicle sales for the state fleet. One measure on tomorrow's ballot to raise taxes on the wealthiest residents to subsidize zero-emission vehicles looks like it may fail. The new poll from UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies says 47% of likely voters like Proposition 30 and 41% were against it, but support appears to be dropping. The initiative to get multi-millionaires to pay for a chunk of the state's vehicle fleet to switch gasoline to electric power. Ride-sharing company Lyft, and even some Democrats are bearish on the campaign.

The Governor has made a move on abortions ahead of the election tomorrow. Bringing the topic top of mind right before the mid-terms, Gov. Newsom posthumously pardoned an abortion activist from the 1930s and 1940s. And on the ballot tomorrow, whether or not to enshrine more protections for women by making it a permanent part of the state Constitution after last summer's U.S. Supreme Court decision. Laura Miner was convicted in 1949 for abortion and conspiracy to commit abortion. She got four years behind bars in the case, and died in 1976. At the time of her incarceration she said she hoped one day abortion would be legal, and believed she had "helped humanity".

There's still no permanent Public Health officer in Lake County. So, tomorrow, the BOS will talk about a mentor program to hopefully get and keep the job filled once and for all. Later in their meeting tomorrow, Supervisors are getting an update on the search for a permanent Public Health Officer and they'll hear about the idea for the mentor program. An executive search firm has been working with the county since August, trying to find a doctor to fill the spot. They've only had one candidate, and they have not met the minimum qualifications. The firm had chosen well over 100 candidates, but none were interested. The former Mendocino County officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan apparently shared with the firm ways to make it more attractive, removing politics, for one thing, and having a mentor. County staff want to pay Doohan to consult for up to six months when an officer is finally found.

Sheet1

The Clearlake City Council has reportedly agreed to let the city loan money to a developer to do road and storm drainage improvements on a development that's been plagued with delays. Lake County News reports at their meeting Thursday the Council voted unanimously to authorize the loan as an extension of a 2020 deal with Lexington Construction to build new market-rate single-family homes as well as a new road and upgrades to the storm drainage along 36th Avenue between Eureka and Phillips. But officials say the project has hit multiple setbacks including the divorce of the couple that owned the development company. With the divorce now final, the wife has agreed to continue the project, but reportedly needs a financial leg-up to do it. The city has agreed to an up-to \$300,000 loan which is due back within 24 months.

A Sacramento-area house fire that erupted Friday night may have been caused by a meteor. The captain of the Penn Valley Fire District says several residents reported seeing a bright light burning across the sky around the same time fire crews were dispatched to the house fire on a cattle ranch. The LA Times reports no one was hurt but the family dog was killed along with several rabbits. The fire chief says it could take weeks to determine the official cause. He says while he has never personally seen a meteor cause a house fire in his 25-year career, he knows it's possible. Meanwhile the American Meteor Society says a meteor seen around the time of the fire was reported by NASA to be going around 32,000 mph.

You can apply now for a permit to go cut a Christmas tree in the Mendocino National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service says you can visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) and search by forest name or use their interactive map to figure out where you want to go. There is only one permit allowed per household but you can purchase up to three trees. The cost for 2022 is \$10 per tree, with a \$2.50 transaction fee. And even though you may not want to go get your tree for a few weeks, you do want to act fast on getting the permits, which are limited and granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tree mortality is now a local emergency in Mendocino County. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously for the declaration due to the amount of bark beetle activity there's been in conifer trees. It's not helped by fires, the drought, firefighting and poor forest management practices. This comes after a statewide emergency was declared by former Governor Jerry Brown so the trees could more easily be removed. But in Mendocino County, the wildfires and drier weather has moved the problem to other species of trees too. The Board has been urged by stakeholders to pursue grant funding to pull the trees and plant new ones. The language around the declaration says they "encourage any State and Federal funding to assist with replanting of trees and supporting healthy forests 11/08/22 and watersheds, as appropriate".

Sheet1

A man from San Francisco has been identified as the victim of a solo car crash near Bell Springs Rd. off Highway 101. 33-year-old Fredy Ceron Franco was killed in the crash Saturday morning in a 2006 Toyota Tacoma. He reportedly crashed in wet weather when his truck lost traction and rolled, stopping after hitting a tree. Officers investigating the crash say he was probably going at an unsafe speed for the conditions. A passenger with him ended up in the hospital in Willits with moderate injuries. The crash happened after a second crash Saturday when a driver hit a tree along Highway 128, east of Boonville. That driver was identified as 29-year-old Omar Gutierrez Nunes, of Santa Rosa.

Police in Ukiah have arrested a man after reports of a burglary in the government building. Police say they got a call to the 500 block of Low Gap Rd. after employees found an open door. Officers searched but didn't find anyone there. They say an outside door had been pried open. County employees said several laptops were taken. Then cops poured over surveillance video and caught a man on camera. He was identified as Justin Williamson, who was found outside nearby, under a bridge. He had on the same hoodie as seen in surveillance video and had a couple of laptops near him. He was arrested and was searched where more electronics were found along with a methamphetamine pipe. He's charged with various crimes related to the burglary.

Ukiah police have arrested a man they say was acting erratically. Police say they got a call October 30th and found Ryan Kotterman showing symptoms that he may be high. He was immediately arrested for public intoxication and being in possession of a methamphetamine pipe. He was booked into jail. But a neighbor said they thought he might have a gun so they went back to the home and found a ghost gun and a bunch of ammo. Checking a safe, they found more weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. He also had several previous felony convictions on his record, so he was not allowed to have guns or ammunition. He had also just been released from jail the day before. He's booked again and held on \$25,000 bail, but posted bail and was released.

Police in Fort Bragg have responded to gunshots fired. Witnesses say a home had a damaged window, but the police chief says it wasn't from a bullet. The home on Azaela Way is believed to have been hit by a tiny meteor, the size of a grain of rice. It coincides with the Taurid meteor shower Friday night. The chief says he has seen scores of damaged, or bullet-ridden windows in his 2 decades of service and knows this was not that. The person living at the home said it seemed like a bullet larger than a .22 damaged the window. And the chief says nobody said they heard gunshots. The police chief says a projectile probably came from a high angle and there was "strange" damage to the window. In any case, he's not an astronomer, but thought it might be a possibility after reading about the meteor shower above Northern Calif. around the same time.

Sheet1

A new report says poverty is down in Calif. but may be because of the state and national safety net programs during the pandemic, especially federal child tax credits being expanded. The deadline to file for the tax credit ends next Wednesday, November 17th. Some lawmakers had a press conference to remind about the tax credit. At the same time the nonprofit, the California Policy Lab says around 290,000 California kids who live at or near poverty could miss out on the 2021 child tax benefit. And that would mean almost a billion dollars left not used. But the poverty report from the Public Policy Institute of Calif. showed the rate was off nearly 5 percent from 2019 to a projected 11.7% in the fall of 2021. Still, about 4.5 million Californians live in poverty, making under \$37,000 a year for a family of four.

The CHP is out on the roads more thanks to a grant to curb fast and aggressive driving. The Speed Prevention, Education and Enforcement Deterrence, or SPEED, grant, through the California Office of Traffic Safety is helping the CHP bring down the amount of fatal crashes and those where someone is injured in a crash related to speed which is reported to be a factor in 40% of all fatal and injury crashes in California. More than 26,250 crashes in Calif. from Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020 killed 290 people and injured more than 38,150 more. The CHP had money from a similar grant from Jan. 1, 2020, to Sept. 20, 2021 from the federal government to educate drivers and try to stop dangerous driving behaviors with enhanced speed enforcement operations on state routes.

In Lake County, a business owner has won a \$25,000 prize in a small business competition. Melinda Price of Peace and Plenty Farms won the cash in the established business category at "Hands Up Lake County 2022". For startups, it was Baylee Grove of Rock N Rolled Ice Cream who won \$10,000. Both of the winners said after their wins on Saturday they would use the money to further expand their businesses. The small business competition is put on by the local nonprofit 1Team 1Dream, which works to bolster the local economy.

A Community Development Financial Institution, Economic Development Corporation, and Small Business Lending Center, has won a multimillion dollar grant from the state for sustainable industries. The Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) won a \$5 million grant from the California Community Economic Resilience Fund to help with planning. This means AEDC is going to manage the money for the Redwood Coast Region which includes Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Lake Counties. CalPoly Humboldt's California Center for Rural Policy is overseeing the leadership collaborative and will get involved in community engagement and research to inform the development of the regional plan.

Intro: Millions of Californians have already voted, but millions more may be headed out to the polls today for in person voting or to drop off their ballot. Groups fighting for clean elections say they want to clear up some myths about the ballot this year. Kim Alexander with the nonpartisan nonprofit California Voter Foundation says some people worry, mistakenly thinking they have to vote on every race.

:09 "This is a pretty long ballot. And if you don't feel comfortable making a decision on something on the ballot, you're free to skip that contest and move on to the next ballot."

Tag: As a reminder, voters must sign the ballot envelope for it to be counted. If you want to mail it, it must be postmarked today and received within seven days. County election officials will contact voters with missing or challenged envelope signatures to give them a chance to submit a valid signature.

Second Cut: Alexander notes that people should not expect full results tonight.

:18 "It's likely that there will be contests where you're looking at the results on election night, and it may look like it's going one way. And then once all the ballots get counted, it turns out going in the other direction. And that is to be expected, because what shows on election night is just a small portion of all the ballots that will be counted. "

Tag: She adds that during the June primary, more than 91 percent of votes were cast by mail, and just under half were counted within two days after election day. As of 10:40 p-m on election night five months ago, only 41 percent of the votes had been counted.

In Lake County, the Registrar of Voters reported a steady turnout throughout the day. Early this morning the office had their last preliminary county from last night covering all 80 precincts. They reported about 21% turnout which could still go up with mail in and provisional ballots. The assessor-recorder, district attorney, sheriff and supervisorial races were all decided in the primary, so it was basically local school boards in Konocti, Kelseyville and Middletown. One big issue though was the annexation question, but only 3 ballots were cast by the voters who it impacted, all were against the move. In both Lakeport and Clearlake there were also City Council seats up for grabs. In Clearlake the incumbents Russ Cremer and Dirk Slooten ran unopposed. The Lakeport Mayor won a fourth city council term. She was unopposed, and Mireya Turner, who resigned but was still on the ballot won, and will have to resign again. For all

11/09/22 other down-ballot races, check Lake County News online.

In the Ukiah City Council race in late returns Susan Sher had a healthy lead to take at least one of the spots open. She was closely trailed by incumbent Mari Rodin, then Juan Orozco. Jim Brown will probably lose his seat if the numbers hold, as only three were open.

Newsom 57.7% against Brian Dahle with 42.3%

Rob Bonta held on with 67% against his challenger

Alex Padilla won in a landslide with almost 70%

Jared Huffman in a landslide with 69%

Mike McGuire with 69%

Jim Wood 69%

Thurmond holds on to State Superintendent of Schools

Jason Godeke and Marcia Rafanan out front in Fort Bragg, along with Michelle Roberts

Sheet1

Lindy Peters wins the short 2-year term, appearing with Alberto Aldaco who said he was dropping out

Prop 1 overwhelming yes to enshrine reproductive rights in the state constitution.

26 – no for certain gambling on tribal lands including sports wagering.

27 – no for certain gambling off tribal lands including sports wagering.

28 – yes more money for arts and music education in schools.

29 – no to have onsite medical professional for kidney dialysis clinics.

30 – yes w/51% tax money would go to fight air pollution from wildfires. But failed in the state.

31 – yes prohibit flavored tobacco sales.

Hopland Fire – 58%

Library Initiative – yes w/60%

Measure P – yes 56% Essential Sales Tax

After the Mendocino County DA asked the state Attorney General's Office to recuse himself from former police chief Noble Wadelich's criminal case, the office said no. The Sonoma County DA was investigating the case after a woman complained she was sexually assaulted by the former chief while he was on duty in June. Eyster has not publicly commented on the case, especially after former officer Kevin Murray was fired for several crimes including sex assault and only got probation. Eyster was also named as a defendant in a civil lawsuit by Wadelich's former girlfriend who claims the former chief also assaulted her. The state attorney general's letter to Eyster said the perception of a conflict doesn't mean he has to recuse himself, nor does it disqualify him.

The Bureau of Land Management has rescinded the burn ban on public lands for Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties. Fire restrictions were put in place in June ahead of what's historically been the peak of fire season in Northern Calif. This means public land visitors can light campfires again outside of campgrounds and recreation sites. They're also allowing recreational target shooting in designated areas. But visitors are being reminded to check weather conditions because we could still have Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches for hot, dry and windy conditions.

Cal Fire is not confirming yet that the recent rain could mean California's fire season is over. The fire agency says they're optimistic but are prepared for that not to be the case. Officials with the statewide firefighting agency says they can't tell yet when exactly the fire season will officially end, with the third year of extreme drought and concerns, we could be headed into a fourth year. Generally, the end of fire season is based on normal precipitation, normal cooling, normal rising of relative humidity for this time of year. But due to climate change those conditions are coming later and later every year, if at all. And if we dry up quick here and get warmer weather, we could be back into fire weather.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed November Native American Heritage Month and agreed to participate in "Operation Green Light" to bring attention to Veterans this week ahead of Veterans Day. The Board also discussed waiving the bidding process so they could move forward with a hazardous tree removal project after the Public Works Department said there was no financial benefit to accept bids because there were no other consultants in the area. And the Board discussed turning an old Yoga building into a Cannabis retailer, but it would have to be re-zoned.

Another two Condors are to be released. This morning, at 7:30am the Northern California Condor Restoration Program is releasing a pair of prey-go-neesh (California condors) into Yurok Country. They have a condor cam where you can watch it. The birds are known as A6 and A7. A6, a male, was born in May of 2021, at the Oregon Zoo and the female, A7, was born the following month, in June of 2-21 at Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey. The two will remain enclosed, with the light first being let in at dawn, then a door will be opened for the birds to wander into a flight pen, where they will take their final steps in captivity. The first bird may only be released today, with the second tomorrow.

The California State Parks Dept. will allow US veterans to go to some state parks for free on Veterans Day. This Friday current service members and reserve personnel can visit any of the more than 130 select state parks. The state parks director says they invite all military, past and present, and their families to visit for free. This comes after a bill was signed into law in 2013 by former Governor Jerry Brown which authorized the parks department to offer vets from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard of any state a reduced fee or free day use at participating state parks.

Some ranchers could be in trouble if they violate water conservation orders. Water officials say they could fine up to \$4,000 to prevent illegal water diversions during droughts. But it may amount to only about \$50 per rancher. That's because this area serves just about 80 ranchers and farmers who turned on pumps for about a week in August due to dried out pastures, diverting water from Shasta River. That was a no-no per both state and federal officials, who say it violated an emergency state order, threatened the river's water quality and its salmon and other rare species. The Shasta River Water Association says the fine was the cheapest way to get by.

It was pretty chaotic at times at the election's office. The Daily Journal reported they checked in mid-morning yesterday with the Mendocino County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie said they were swamped. On Monday night, she reported they had received 16,734 ballots and got another 1,500 or so by yesterday morning. They also had allowed some folks from the public into watch opening and organizing of ballots which was happening in the main hallway of the county administration building. There was also a large screen set up in case there were too many people to watch the ballot-processing up close and personal.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County library system is asking for feedback on what services are the most popular and what changes, if any, they'd like to see. At last week's Ukiah City Council meeting, the local library branch manager spoke in front of the panel to announce residents can submit their feedback through the end of the month. She said they welcome input so they can best refine services, programs and collections.

California is the place where the massive Powerball jackpot has been won. The grand prize of \$2.04 billion has been won in Altadena. Joe's Service Center sold the winning ticket, and we will find out who won because the state doesn't allow anonymity when it comes to lottery winners. Joe's Service Center is getting a Powerball bonus of \$1 million. Then in San Francisco, the 1001 St. Market sold one of three one-million-dollar tickets. That market gets \$5,000 for selling that ticket. The Calif. Lottery says Calif. Schools are getting \$156.3 million from the jackpot. The winning numbers were drawn yesterday after a one-day delay.

The grape harvest in Mendocino and Lake counties is over just after an early frost and some pretty muggy rainy weather. The harvest just before a harder freeze just a few days ago. Some had to harvest a little early so they didn't lose their fruit. Just before the end of the season, there were forecasts of a cold snap. The National Weather Service warned about cold temperatures for parts of Lake, Mendocino and northern coastal California counties 2 weeks ago. The unseasonably cold weather mixed with rain could have been a disaster, with temps forecasted well under freezing for all of Lake and eastern Mendocino counties.

The 12th annual Festival of Lights is coming to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Rain or shine each weekend from November 25th to December 18th you can check out thousands of lights along the sparkling lit path. There are treats and a gift shop too. It's \$10 for adults and kids under 16 are free. You have to get your tickets online ahead of time or at the gift shop. They expect it to sell out each night because they have limited tickets. They are also asking for mask wearing in indoor spaces and when you interact with staff. If you're sick, please stay home.

Visit <http://www.gardenbythesea.org/FOL> for full details and to get tickets.

The talk of finances by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors continues, along with confusion. The Board is trying to get to the bottom of why the county's short money in the healthcare plan, which is creating a domino effect. The county has money from the coronavirus federal government stimulus known as the American Rescue Plan Act. Over 4.5 million dollars could be used to stuff the budget gap which was just noted this spring. The CEO and the board discussed how it goes back nearly six years when the county spent down a budget surplus because they supposedly had too big of a reserve from the health plan. The county has also not been reimbursed for money spent during COVID lockdowns. And cannabis funds are not what were expected. The new CEO also promised employees bonuses from the stimulus, but those may be on pause for a minute too.

11/10/22

Sheet1

There's a new suit in charge of climate resiliency in Lake County. Terre Logsdon has been named the new Chief Climate Resiliency Officer. The position is made possible with funding from the state's Office of Emergency Services' (CalOES') Prepare California "Jumpstart" Grant program. Logsdon has been around the block when it comes to the environment, working the last few years as the Environmental Director and Chief Operations Officer for the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians (SVBPI). The position is under the County Administrative Office team, with an eye on mitigating the effects of global climate change as a full-time employee. Her appointment is effective December 5.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are lost from California's two major pension plans. This is way more than had been reported the first part of the year. The Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System have released the latest numbers for the last fiscal year which ended in June. It included updated private equity and real asset returns. CalPERS showed a -6.1% return for the fiscal year, then adjusted it to -7.5%. And CalSTRS, had reported a -1.3% return, but updated to reflect -3.3%.

As we reported with election returns, Proposition 29 got a resounding no... again. Doctors, nurses, dialysis patients and others affected by the initiative said they were not surprised it failed for a third time, this time nearly a 70% no vote. It lost by an even wider margin this time though. There were over 70 groups against Prop 29, including the California Medical Association, American Nurses Association and the California NAACP and almost every state daily newspaper. The proposition would have meant all dialysis clinics in the state would need administrators on site at all times, but they wouldn't be providing direct patient care, just increasing the cost.

A man from Albion has been found guilty for multiple rapes. A jury convicted 30 year old Anthony Oakley last Friday for felony assault with intent to commit rape on Jane Doe #1; felony forcible spousal rape on Jane Doe #2; and another against Jane Doe #3. There were many other charges against him, including another rape and criminal threats. After the deliberations were over Oakley ended up back in Mendocino County Jail. The case is with the Probation Department for a background study and sentencing recommendation; which is set for next week.

The rest of the PG&E money set aside by the Mendocino City Community Services District for Public Safety Power Shutoffs is going to another need. The Board of Directors has approved the Superintendent Ryan Rhoades using the rest of the grant money they received in 2021 to respond to a power loss during the October 2019 extended power outage, causing the plant to be shut down. Some of the money will go to buy several backup generators and fuel. The board also voted last month on rate increases and sent ballots to property owners to decide.

In the wake of a recent large unlicensed cannabis grow bust, the Mendocino County Sheriff says many illegal cannabis growers are leaving the County. Sheriff Matt Kendall reported to the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council at their meeting this week that the bust at the unlicensed grow site on Road E turned up over 1,000 plants. Mendo Fever reports the sheriff said the case has been turned over to the District Attorney and that he's seeing a lot fewer illegal grows in the County. The sheriff also reported on staffing, saying six newly-hired correctional officers were sworn in last month and he has two 11/11/22 deputy candidates at the police academy and two more set to be hired.

Three Santa Rosa High School students have been arrested for setting off fireworks on campus. As we reported yesterday, after several sounds of explosions were heard around 1030am, Santa Rosa police responded and classrooms near the sounds were evacuated while the rest of the school sheltered in place. Officers quickly determined there was no active threat and with the help of school officials identified two students that set off the fireworks and a third that had brought them in. All three students, 15-year-old boys, were arrested for misdemeanor Possession of an Explosive Device.

Community fire resilience and restoration are the topics of a free two-day workshop next week offered by the nonprofit FireScape Mendocino. The "Collaborative Planning Workshop for Wildfire Resilience and Post-Fire Restoration" is set for Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17. There will be speakers from tribes as well as local and federal agencies. On Wednesday the workshop starts at the Upper Lake Ranger District and Thursday it's at the Robinson Rancheria Resort and Casino. It's free but you need to register in advance at <https://www.firescapemendocino.org>.

If you notice the Lake County Courthouse basking in the glow of green light, it is in honor of our veterans. This week the Lake County Board of Supervisors voted to join Operation Greenlight: a nationwide effort to highlight veterans and the challenges they face. Through Sunday night, the Lake County Courthouse will shine green each night in a visible statement that the county stands in solidarity with our veterans. County officials say Lake County has one of the highest veteran populations, per capita, in California.

The Mendocino National Forest has a new Forest Supervisor. Wade McMaster, who has been with the Forest Service for over 12 years and grew up near the Shasta-Trinity and Klamath National Forests, took over as head of the Mendocino Forest on Monday. Kym Kemp reports McMaster came to Mendocino from the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest, was the District Ranger for the Gold Beach Ranger District, and was also recently the Acting Forest Supervisor on the Shoshone National Forest. He also has experience as the Tribal Relations Program Manager for Region 5. He is a member of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California and served 13 years as Chairman.

The search continues for a Santa Rosa doctor who has been missing for two weeks. Pediatrician Dr. Bruce Montgomerie was last seen leaving his home on the evening of October 26. The Press Democrat reports his car was found two days later in the parking lot at the Jenner Headlands Preserve and his phone was in the car. The area has been searched by boat and helicopter but so far there are no clues. If you can help, Santa Rosa police are accepting anonymous tips.

Some Fort Bragg High School students have rallied to provide the pies for Fort Bragg Presbyterian Church's free annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. After the Church asked for help from the community to cover the costs of the pies, the Fort Bragg High School Culinary Arts Program came to the rescue. Mendo Fever reports 68 beginning Culinary Arts students prepared the pies under the guidance of their teacher with the High School's staff donating the cost of the supplies. The pies are in the freezer now but some of the students will reportedly be there on Thanksgiving Day to help slice 'em up.

A woman has been arrested after reportedly leading Healdsburg police on a chase that ended with a crash in Santa Rosa. Police say Wednesday morning officers tried to stop Sara Fuller of Eureka near the intersection of Healdsburg Avenue and Dry Creek Road because the car she was in was reported stolen. Fuller took off and got onto Highway 101 Southbound at speeds of up to 130 miles per hour. But she lost control at the College Avenue off ramp and crashed into a traffic utility box. Fuller then ran across 101 before being tackled at a gas station and arrested.

California's Attorney General is taking aim at chemical companies for their decades-long use of what are now known to be cancer causing chemicals in household products. On Thursday Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit against 3M, DuPont and 16 other chemical companies for the use of PFAS, known as "forever chemicals", which he says are responsible for widespread pollution and public health risk. Bonta calls the companies liable for "hundreds of millions of dollars" in penalties and cleanup costs across California because he says they continued to make the chemicals while concealing their danger from the public.

Another \$9 million in fire prevention grants coming into California from this year's Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Package. On Thursday, Rep. Mike Thompson announced the Joint Fire Science Program will be accepting applications for grants to research innovative fuels treatments and post-fire rehabilitation efforts starting December 20. This funding is in addition to \$3.4 billion in wildfire suppression and mitigation also included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

A Clearlake Oaks woman has been convicted of first-degree murder for July 2021 shooting of her ex-boyfriend. Tammy Sue Grogan-Robinson was found guilty by a jury on Thursday of killing Charles Vernon McClelland at a home in Clearlake Oak. As Lake County News reports, it was the culmination of a four-week trial in which prosecutors asserted Grogan-Robinson had planned and carried out the shooting after McClelland refused to rekindle their on-and-off relationship. She had initially claimed he'd sexually assaulted her but a Lake County Sheriff's Office investigation proved that to be false. She is reportedly facing 25 years to life when she is sentenced next month.

Clearlake Police Chief Andrew White is leaving for a new job. White has been tapped as the new Police Chief for the City of Martinez. White has been Chief in Clearlake since 2018 following 16 years policing with Suisun City. White will start in Martinez on January 3. Clearlake city officials say Lt. Tim Hobbs will serve as Acting Police Chief while they put together plans to do a search for a new permanent chief which they will announce in a few weeks. They also plan to hold a community reception in December to give Chief White a send-off and swear-in Lt Hobbs.

Sheet1

Just in case... PG&E along with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority hosted a Live Action Gas Drill along with various Mendocino County agencies. It was last week the proactive drill took place after “an increase in third parties hitting gas lines”. The fire agency and utility company decided on the “joint safety exercise in Ukiah to simulate the coordination during an emergency event involving natural gas, including dig-ins to gas pipelines or gas leaks.” PG&E said they would also heavily promote using the 811-telephone service, which is free, to inform those digging lines ahead of time, what they might dig into. The training was last Tuesday, Nov. 8th. They had a person who was made up to look like a burn victim on hand too. There were nearly 50 PG&E employees working with personnel from UVFA, Little Lake Fire, Cal Fire and the Ukiah Police Department during the exercise.

The Clearlake Chief of Police Andrew White is leaving town for a new position. White is taking the chief position in the City of Martinez. He’s been in Clearlake for about 4 years after 16 in Suisun City. The City Manager Alan Flora says he was proud of the impact Chief White had during his time leading the agency, which enabled the office to excel in a way that was transformational. For his part White said it was an honor to lead the department, making Clearlake a cleaner, safer city. He added that he’s confident the department will continue its good work after his departure. There will be a community reception for Chief White next month. Lt. Tim Hobbs will be sworn in as Acting Police Chief until the city finds a permanent replacement for White who was making upwards of \$200,000 in pay and benefits/year.

There’s a major shortage of specialist doctors in northwest California forcing patients to drive long distances for care or not getting the help they need at all. In the town of Redding in Shasta County, they only have Neonatal Intensive Care between Sacramento and Medford, Oregon. Dr. Paul Davis is chief of medicine for the Redding Rancheria Tribal Health System.

:14 “I’d like to hire two family doctors today, if I could. Pretty much if I have a specialty need for almost any child, they have to go to UC Davis. We really need rheumatologists, neurologists, orthopedics, internists and primary care.”

Tag: Many patients have to drive hours to see a specialist, and that’s a particular challenge in a part of the world where many patients struggle to afford transportation or child care.

Second Cut: Doreen Bradshaw is executive director of the Health Alliance of Northern California, which works with 30 clinics for primary care in rural and frontier areas. She says more than one-third of Shasta County residents are on Medi-Cal, which makes it harder to sustain a private medical practice.

:09 “We have high numbers of Medi-Cal patients, which also have low Medi-Cal reimbursement rates. And so, for physicians, it’s hard to cover costs.”

Third Cut: Dr. Dean Germano with the nonprofit Shasta Community Health Center estimates Shasta County alone has a shortage of about 70 doctors, and says the region’s deeply conservative social and political environment has also made it more difficult to attract and retain doctors, including specialists.

Sheet1

:14 “I think one of the biggest challenges is the physician or specialist’s consideration of whether this is a place they want to live. It’s important to remember that around 30% of physician specialists come from the international community, and many are people of color.”

Tag: Multiple efforts are underway to improve the situation. The pandemic ushered in a big expansion of telemedicine. The Shasta Health Assessment and Redesign Collaborative runs a website called “Shasta Health Rock Stars,” designed to attract medical professionals of all types and convince local students to pursue careers in medicine. And the U-C Davis family practice medical residency sends eight to 10 doctors to the North State area each year.

A couple of kids have been arrested in connection to a hit-and-run with an SUV into a parked car, then a garage. Police in Ukiah say the parked car, then crashed into the garage of a home. Police found the driver and passenger of the SUV were drinking before. The two girls, age 13 and 15 apparently ran from the scene of the crash, but residents followed them and informed police dispatch along the way. Police found the side door to a garage cracked open where they crashed. The people living there were home at the time. Police and a CHP officer checked the area, but then the homeowner found them in the garage. The driver went to Juvenile Hall and the passenger was turned over to a parent.

Mendocino County Supervisor John Hashak has an update for the community. On the Mendo Fever site a letter has been posted where Hashak says he’s thankful Measures O and P passed. Measure O, as you may recall, was on the ballot to infuse libraries with cash, while Measure P is to give more money to fire departments. Hashak says the passage of the measures will not increase the sales tax but rather redirect the Measure B Mental Health tax. He also thanked those running for seats in Willits on the School Board and updated on the tree mortality declaration of emergency he sponsored. He says that will bring attention, resources, and grant possibilities to the region after Lake, Napa, Sonoma have passed similar resolutions.

There are still several thousand ballots left to be processed in Mendocino County. The Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie says as part of the official canvass, like all other elections, they still have work to do. The county has over 17,000 Mail-In ballots to process and count, and 617 Provisional / Conditional ballots to review, process and count. They are still accepting ballots, which they have to by law, until tomorrow, which is one week after the general election. Bartolomie says as with past elections, they will have another update on their website, with the same numbers sent to the Secretary of State’s office, by or before next Tuesday. That’s two weeks to the day after the election. They also, have to by law, have completed the certification of the election within 30 days.

Sheet1

A woman from Ukiah helped out of a car crash with her four dogs after quite the ordeal. Apparently, some District 2 maintenance employees happened to be in the area when Tina Milberger crashed along State Route 32 November 2nd just before midnight. Milberger came off the road and went down a steep embankment, plunging 130 feet down near Susanville. She was also stuck in the vehicle, hanging upside down. But about 4 am the maintenance workers plowing snow nearby saw her car tracks and shined a bright light down and saw her, then she honked her horn and the pair called 911. Milberger was pulled up with a rope and pulley system with 3 of her 4 dogs. She was airlifted to a hospital in Red Bluff. The next day, a maintenance worker from Chester went out looking for the other dog, it was 3 days later, the pup was found.

The Sonoma Clean Power board of directors has given the green light to start work on a geothermal power supply for service territories of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. The Geothermal Opportunity Zone, aka the GeoZone will be part of the strategy for the utility to start delivering clean energy to free to their customers who've been using fossil fuels when there's not enough solar energy on the grid. The two counties joined with Sonoma Clean Power last year after approval by their boards of supervisors to establishing the GeoZone partnership. They just have to get the memorandum of understanding signed to start developing geothermal power using technologies that conserve water.

Police in Clearlake have been searching for a missing woman. They say it's possible 34-year-old Angelina Trisha Fagundo was leaving Vacaville, headed back to Clearlake, but then disappeared. The missing woman is described as being 5 foot 10 inches tall and about 205 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. If you've seen her, police ask for your help, contacting them.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors gets a peek at the new county website at its next meeting. County staff will present the new site at the meeting tomorrow. The site is also expected to launch in the morning too. The board is also set to look over a nearly \$450,000 bid for a new security system at the jail. R&B Electronics Electrica Contracting would be putting in a Tower Electronics Security System Upgrade.

A young man from Ukiah has been arrested for victimizing a former girlfriend. According to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept., 19-year-old Kalub Piceno was at the woman's home and physically assaulted her. She told Deputies Piceno struck her in the face with closed fists and bit one of her hands, causing injuries and pain. Deputies confirmed her injuries matched the story. The guy had left before they arrived, but after searching several locations, Piceno was found and arrested for Felony Domestic Violence Battery and held on \$25,000.00 bail in the Mendocino County Jail.

Sheet1

A solo car crash has killed the driver in Willits. Details are sparse at the moment. What we do know is several regional law enforcement agencies were on the scene last Friday afternoon. They say someone in a GMC Yukon was traveling north on Sherwood Road, south of Birch Street and for some reason they missed a turn, crossed the double yellow lines, went off the road and spun around and rolled, and hit a tree. The CHP in Garberville is investigating and say they don't know yet if drugs or alcohol were a factor in the crash. The California Highway Patrol, Little Lake Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire Department, Willits Fire Department, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department were all on the scene.

11/15/22

After reports in the area of some sort of disturbance, Mendocino Deputies arrested a man. They say they got a call to the 1700 block of Tanya Lane in Ukiah by a woman who says she was physically assaulted by the father of her children. Deputies say 41-year-old Pedro Cortez-Ayala was accused of pushing the woman and threatening her. They say she had visible injuries on one of her arms so they arrested Cortez-Ayala for Felony Domestic Violence Battery, Felony Criminal Threats, and Prevent/Dissuade a Witness/Victim by Threat or Force. He was being held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A pair of people in Ukiah have been arrested after Deputies on routine patrol saw a suspicious vehicle and approached. The Patrol Deputy says the driver, Odessa Oneil had a big blanket in the back seat, and they saw it moving slightly. They denied anything was up with that, but the Deputy was apparently concerned for their own safety, so they lifted the blanket. Under it was another person, who gave a phony name. The Deputy later identified the passenger as Lee Long who had an active Felony PRCS warrant and was on Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) with multiple terms, so he was searched. The Deputy found pepper spray on him, so he was arrested for violating his release terms, having the pepper spray and falsely impersonating another. Oneill was arrested for Delaying Obstructing or Resisting a Peace Officer During the Performance of his Duties and Harboring, Aiding or Concealing a Subject Wanted for a Felony.

It's Transgender Awareness Week and Lake County Behavioral Health Services invites residents to join in spotlighting the campaign along with Transgender Day of Remembrance on Sunday. The first time we had Transgender Day of Remembrance was back in 1999, it's now recognized in more than 20 countries. The day honors Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was murdered in Allston, Massachusetts in 1998. On November 20, we remember transgender individuals who have lost their lives. Last year was the highest number of violent fatal incidents against transgender and gender non-conforming people with 57 deaths, the highest since they started monitoring in 2015. In Lake County they remind at Behavioral Health Services, their doors are open to all, regardless of gender identity, and say it's a haven of safety and security.

For more information, please contact Lake County Behavioral Health Services at 707-274-9101 or 707-994-7090.

If you are a transgender person of any age, support is also available via the Trans Lifeline, at 877-565-8860. Visit <https://translifeline.org/> for more information.

Sheet1

An Assemblyman is working to get a new monument built to honor Native Americans in the capital. Assemblymember James Ramos along with some area tribal leaders and others broke ground yesterday in Capitol Park to recognize Native Americans whose ancestral lands the Capitol now sits on. It comes during Native American Heritage Month. California has the most Native American residents than any other state. And Ramos is the first California Native American elected to the Legislature since statehood, 172 years ago. The new statue will be in place of the Junipero Serra sculpture.

The first death of the winter season due to the flu in a child who also had RSV. The California Department of Public Health announced the death of a child under 5 due to flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. The agency says young children are the most vulnerable to severe complications from RSV and the flu. They say it's made worse if the child has other underlying conditions or was born premature. They remind to vaccinate your entire household against the flu and COVID to boost immunity and lower the risk of severe outcomes.

A reward is being offered in Laytonville after some automated temperature sensing gauges were reported stolen. Apparently, the devices were in a UPS box at a rural home where they were awaiting pickup from the Eel River Recovery Project. Those who were burglarized say it's a loss of about \$1500, and a major loss of temperature data from the upper South Fork Eel River, something they've been doing for a decade to watch coho salmon in one of their last strong-holds in the Eel River watershed. They're offering a \$100 reward – no questions asked. The plan is, if whoever took them, and puts them back in the box where they were, they will put a \$100 bill in the box. They say they don't care who took them, they just want them back. For more information or help with getting gauges back, please contact ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins at 707 223-7200.

Mendocino County's dealing with a major staffing crisis per SEIU Local 1021. The union says there are vacancies in many departments, especially having to do with healthcare or social services. There's a nearly 30% vacancy rate for public health nurses, 40% for Family & Children's Services Social Workers, a 20% vacancy rate for Employment & Family Assistance eligibility specialists, a whopping 70% vacancy rate for mental health clinicians and road crew positions are at a 32% vacancy rate. The union says it means Mendocino County's most vulnerable residents — including abused and neglected children, seniors, and people with disabilities — are not getting the services they need in a timely manner. And the county has acknowledged it may have to let some county roads go back to dirt or gravel roads because they cannot maintain them.

<https://seiu1021.good.do/mendo/mendo-email/>

Sheet1

Solar panels are being installed at Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital for their carports. Over 150 spaces in the front parking lot will be powered by the sun. Visitors at the hospital and various clinics might have to find a way around the work for now as they close off the parking spots. The patient drop-off near the entrance for the ER will remain open. The carports will feature EV charging stations too as part of the hospital's commitment to Planetree, which is a nonprofit global healthcare forum which created the global standard for person-centered health care. The hospital also says the new solar generated panels will reduce the hospital's carbon footprint.

It's Plowshares anniversary. For the organization's 39th anniversary, they are inviting the public to come in for their Traditional Thanksgiving Feast in the Community Dining Room from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day. Plowshares Executive Director says they will have all the same feast items they have for dining room guests, and for their Meals-On-Wheels seniors. You can sit in the dining room or take a meal to-go too. They are also accepting donations weekdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A woman accused of arson in Clearlake Oaks has accepted a plea deal, and the court agreed. It's up to a judge to decide if they too will accept a plea deal, and in the case of Elizabeth Brannon, it was a yes. She was at the court and entered a no contest plea to arson of an inhabited structure/property; and admitted a special allegation charge of arson causing great bodily injury. She earlier denied all of the allegations and pleaded not guilty but changed her mind. She was examined by mental health professionals, then was back in court over the summer. The charges against her included aggravated arson, arson (inhabited structure), causing fire (inhabited structure), possessing material for arson, being under the influence of a controlled substance and carrying a concealed dirk/dagger in another matter. A fire she was accused of setting damaged five of the six structures that were lit up.

The yearly Giving Tuesday event in Ukiah is coming up. Next Tuesday the global volunteer movement will be observed locally. The campaign first came about in 2012 to "encourage people to do good". It has become a worldwide movement now with millions giving each year and working together to celebrate generosity. The City of Ukiah will be working with local businesses and organizations on the community giving. They will be out at either local trails or community gardens doing beautification work, planting trees, pulling weeds, picking up trash or covering graffiti. You can sign up on the smartphone app or online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search Giving Tuesday – Ukiah. Space is limited, 11/16/22 so early registration is encouraged.

The Lakeport City Council has approved a new housing project which is part of a larger development. Lake Co News reports the council voted 3 to 1 on the Parkside Subdivision expansion which is next to Westside Community Park. The developer will add 128 new apartments and 48 homes on more than 15 acres. The development is three phases, first approved back in 2005. The approval at last night's meeting means construction can start on 64 apartments and 48 "cluster" homes. The homes will probably not start construction until about a year and a half after the apartments go up.

Sheet1

The Sheriff of Tehama County says they have such a severe staffing shortage he will have to stop all daytime patrols. Beginning this Sunday, due to a “catastrophic staffing shortage” there will only nighttime patrols in the area. A news release from the agency says they’ve been having difficulties finding new people and retaining who they already have due to pay disparities. The Sheriff has reassigned Deputies to courts and the jail from the operations division. With the announcement came the news too, that if needed, the CHP will step up and help with any life-threatening emergencies when needed. Tehama County’s population at last count was about 65,000 or so.

The University of California system is out a bunch of workers. Tens of thousands are striking to get more money and protections. 48,000 academic workers began their strike this week disrupting research, instruction and grading. Heads of the universities are reaching out to get a “neutral private mediator”, but union leaders want UC officials to get back to negotiations as soon as possible, and say their teams are at the ready, 24/7. For the union, they want to focus on more money, and the UC system spokesperson says they think their current offer is sufficient.

A new report shows less and less people in the state are recycling. The new data shows only 40-percent last year, down slightly from 2020. CalRecycle gave the update during a meeting marking ‘America Recycles Day.’ The director says while this is disappointing, she views it as an opportunity to see how the population can do more, at the same time admitting people are recycling everything from tires to beverage containers at record numbers.

The Anderson Valley School Board has voted unanimously for a new skate park. The school board agreed they would have to sell the land next to the Health Clinic in the Community Park. But only for a buck. Now they have to get more money through grants to build the park. The Service Learning Team, Noor Dawood and other supporters with the Community Services District will get down to work. Over 90 Anderson Valley residents were at the public hearing in support of erecting the Skatepark. At the meeting the school board approved of filing the paperwork with the State Board of Education to transfer the land to the Anderson Valley Community Services District.

It’s that time. As we had previously reported that for now on, you’d be able to get a year round fishing license instead of them expiring at the end of each year. The new legislation says sport fishing licenses that are good for 365 days after the day you get it. Assemblyman Jim Wood’s bill was signed into law by Gov. Newsom in October 2021 and they will be ready for sale soon. Any licenses purchased after January 1st will be good for the entire year. Check out the California Department of Fish & Wildlife’s sport fishing page on the agency’s website. There you can read all about the changes.

Sheet1

Mendocino has landed on a travel website as one of the year's don't visit spots. The "No List" of travel destinations by Fodor's Travels, a tourist info and travel company. Each year they publish their recommended places to see, and their places to reconsider. On this year's "No List" was the town of Mendocino along with North Lake Tahoe. The no's include natural attractions that could use a break in order to heal and rejuvenate; cultural hotspots that are overcrowded and have resource depletion; and locations around the world immediately and dramatically impacted by water crises. Lake Tahoe, the site says, has a people problem, droves have moved there since the pandemic hit. And of course Mendocino, the site admits, is a beautiful beach town, with enchanting cliffside trails and beaches, but due to the drought, it's super expensive due to the rising cost of running water.

Free rides for all who like to take the bus. Mendocino Transit Authority is offering free rides on its fixed route buses this month. All Mendocino County residents are encouraged to give MTA a try for free. All buses are accessible to individuals with disabilities. For more information on MTA and its services – 11/17/22 visit <http://www.mendocinotransit.org> or (800) 696-4MTA.

A new exhibition is going up at the Mendocino College Art Gallery. The "Students Respond to the Figure" show will open tomorrow. The official reception is December 1st from 4:00-6:00pm with light refreshments. The gallery says the exhibition represents a cross-section of student work from Portrait Painting and Figure Drawing classes. There will be white chalk on a black mat board depictions and some mixed media mixed in.

A special holiday event is being planned in the town of Lower Lake. Hometown Christmas in Lower Lake is happening on Main Street. Friday, December 9th from 4 to 8 p.m. where you can shop with local vendors all night and enjoy special festivities too including the Xmas tree lighting at the museum, a visit from Santa and a light parade.

For parade or vendor applications, call Coleen 707-533-7363 or Teresa 707-898-4486.

The Calif. Coastal Commission has donated almost 2.2 million dollars to Mendocino County. The grant from Round 8 Local Coastal Program comes from an appropriation of \$31 million for the Coastal Commission to support Climate Resiliency. The money is set aside for local governments and to support Coastal Commission staff administering the program and working with local governments on climate resiliency along the coast, including adapting to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. With this the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services and the Executive Office had applied for the grant funding. The county received the full amount it asked for.

A man from Ukiah has been arrested after another contacted Deputies. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. reports a man approached Deputies earlier this week to talk about a situation. They say the man said Dilan Gregory threatened harm against him. That triggered an investigation into Gregory with Deputies out searching for him. Once they caught up to the guy, he was arrested. Gregory's held in jail on \$20,000 for felony criminal threats.

A man from Covelo suspected of robbery has been found guilty. The jury returned from deliberations this week, finding 22-year-old Georgie Eugene Britton-Hoaglin guilty in connection to a robbery in August. He was also convicted for two sentencing enhancements one that he was armed at the time, the other that he had a previous strike on his record. That was for great bodily injury by personally inflicting the injury on a victim in 2017. Plus, there was another charge of criminal threats. Now it's up to the probation department to come up with a sentencing recommendation for Britton-Hoaglin. He's due back in court December 16th to hear his fate.

Adventist Health Howard Memorial has won an award for performance. The hospital says it's part of the National Rural Health Day celebration that they were recognized with a 2022 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in quality and patient perceptions. The Chartis Center for Rural Health puts together the winners list for the Performance Leadership Awards for rural hospitals. They're based on results from data compiled from the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX™.

A car has reportedly hit a bicyclist by the intersection of South State Street and Laws Avenue causing major injuries and bringing out an air ambulance. The first reports were that the bike rider may have died, but then they were taken to the hospital. Part of South State Street was blocked so emergency personnel could get to the scene.

A road worker had to be taken by air ambulance to a hospital after falling from a bridge on State Route 162 east of Hwy 101. Rescuers say the 36-year-old man fell 35 feet down from the side of a bridge. He was complaining his back hurt and he was having a hard time breathing. Apparently Caltrans had crews in the area of the Outlet Creek Bridge at the time.

Winter shelter vouchers are ready for folks in Fort Bragg. It was pretty cold earlier this week, but not cold enough to distribute any vouchers for motel rooms. They're giving them out from November 15th to April 30th if the forecast low is under 40 degrees or if there's a chance of rain at 60 percent or more. Tuesday wasn't quite there, but pretty close. At the latest City Council meeting the police chief said there would be two changes to the shelter program, they were extending another month, that takes it to April, and those who need vouchers, wouldn't have to go to the police department. Those in need will report to the homeless shelter, the Hospitality Center. And if there are no beds there, that's when they can get a voucher, for one day only.

After several years of giant budget surpluses in Calif., we're headed in the other direction. It looks like a \$25 billion budget hole is likely next year. Those in the know say the state will be done with its historic run of surpluses. This is reportedly due to the amount of taxes the super-rich pay, as they've been making less as of late. That per the S&P 500 which is a key indicator of financial health and can be seen as a bellwether regarding the income of the uber-wealthy. It's gone down over 17% since a peak in January. The latest report shows California revenues are \$41 billion under what was expected, per the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

A man from Ukiah who was set to go to trial for setting a bunch of fires has admitted he did it. 34-year-old Alberto Vincent Acosta pleaded guilty to “willfully and maliciously“ setting 12 fires in and around Ukiah in August 2020. He admitted to at least one fire on August 12th of that year, then two others at homes where people were there at the time, and during a state of emergency. He also admitted there were some grass fires and wooded properties he set ablaze, also during the same state of emergency. Eight counts against him were dismissed as part of a plea deal to withdraw a not guilty by reason of insanity plea. He was however examined by a couple of mental health professionals who agreed he was indeed insane at the time. He agreed to go to prison for 272 months. He will be formally sentenced Dec. 8th.

A giant charitable donation has been made to the Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation from a local family foundation. \$150,000 will be split up, \$50,000 to help recruit and retain coastal caregivers through All In For Nurses and \$100,000 for advanced MRI technology. The foundation and donors donate major gifts they characterize as being transformational to help solve urgent, multi-faceted issues like the local nursing shortage. They also work to respond to urgent community needs, and donate to support the long-term success of coastal caregivers and students.

Some changes afoot regarding outdoor dining in Lakeport. When the pandemic broke out, ordinances were passed nationwide to allow outdoor seating as indoor dining was thought to be a super spreader for the virus. There were public hearings Tuesday at the Lakeport City Council meeting on the matter after city staffers received recommended changes from the council on wording related to zoning. The changes were in language as each year staff have their maintenance review for outdoor dining to be sure things are cleaned and maintained.

In Fort Bragg, a free thanksgiving dinner is being offered. First Presbyterian Church Of Fort Bragg is offering the traditional dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, a dinner roll, pumpkin pie, and juice. There’s no dining option though, but there is an option for home delivery, between Westport and Albion, or curbside pickup at the church.

To reserve a meal, order online, at <https://fbpchurch.org/ctd-1/>, or call Eve at 707-478-7212 or the church office at 707-964-2316. You can also print out a “Meal Reservation Form” from their website. Reservations are required by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 23.

Air quality officials in Calif have a new plan to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The California Air Resources Board has released a scoping plan, supported by the Governor and reflecting some of Newsom’s goals for cutting planet-warming emissions by 48% (compared to 1990 levels). Right now the law says the state has to reduce those emissions by at least 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2045. The plans come after months of public meetings and discussions. One issue though, wildfire smoke. The plan has a section saying there would be one million acres of forests, shrubland, grassland and other habitat where they would have prescribed burning and other methods, then 2.3 million acres by 11/18/22 2045. Right now we’re at 100,000 acres/year.

Sheet1

A man from Willits has been arrested after police say he ripped off a car and threatened others in Ukiah. Police in Ukiah say 41-year-old Ronnie Paschal was in a stolen 2007 Honda Civic with a female driver in a car reported stolen by police in San Jose. A cop on E. Gobbi St. followed the pair and reported to his colleagues who met them all in the DMV parking lot. They say the two were compliant and were arrested. The woman told police she believed she was driving the man's car and had no idea it was stolen. She was released and Paschal was arrested as he had several warrants for his arrest. He's held on \$115,000 bail.

Since there were no candidates who filed to run for an open seat on the Ukiah Unified School District Board, they'll fill it themselves. The Trustees announced the Area 6 seat was not filled in the November 8th election, so they'll appoint someone to the board per the Education Code. Those interested can find an application online or call the Superintendent's office to get one. You can also get an application from the County election's office. They have to receive a completed application by January 23rd, then will interview all applicants in an open session at a special meeting on Monday, January 30th.

A fire in Covelo reported by firefighters. The fire in a single trailer which firefighters say was fully involved when they arrived and extended to a nearby field. The fire was reportedly contained quickly and mop up lasted about an hour.

Applications are being accepted for the Point Arena City Council after nobody was chosen in the General Election. The term is from the date the council appoints the person until December 2026. Those who apply need to be at least 18 years of age, live within the city limits of Point Arena, and be registered to vote in the City of Point Arena when they apply. Applications are due December 8th, but they have to be in by 4pm or you won't be considered. The appointment should be made at their Regular Meeting on December 13th.

State Senator Mike McGuire says the commercial Dungeness Crab season is delayed north of the Sonoma/Mendocino County line. The season will hopefully start mid-December due to low-quality crab meat. And south of the Sonoma/Mendocino County line, they're still set to start Thursday, December 1st.

A man from Fort Bragg has been found guilty of driving an RV drunk. A jury found Kevin Matthew Walters guilty of driving the motorhome under the influence of alcohol, driving the motor home with a blood alcohol .08 or greater, driving without a valid driver's license, and without valid insurance, but not guilty for not being current on the vehicle registration.

Massive damage at the Lakeport Fire Protection District due to a car crash. Lakeport Fire Station 52 which was empty at the time because of budget issues had major damage to the steel framing on the building and the bay doors. The District says they've not gotten an official estimate to repair the damage, but they say their own conservative estimates put the damage upwards of \$100,000. The report was that Saturday night a car driving at a high rate of speed crashed into the station because the car couldn't negotiate an exit off Highway 29.

Sheet1

They're trying to find a new chancellor for the Yuba Community College District which includes overseeing Woodland Community College and the Clearlake campus. The last chancellor Dr. Douglas B. Houston left the college last year and they've had an interim chancellor, Dr. James L.J. Houpis ever since. Their search committee has recently met and will meet again December 5th to review the pool of applicants and come up with questions for interviews which should happen sometime in January.

Several new trees are being planted in Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. State Parks staff have planted 100 valley oak seedlings at three locations at the park as part of a partnership with the State Parks Dept., city of Clearlake and Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The seedlings came from a local nursery and were planted last week along Seigler Canyon Creek, along the North Flat area and in grassland around the park ranch house.

Congressman Mike Thompson says he has COVID. The announcement a couple of days ago that he tested positive after taking a regular PCR test, but since he's fully vaccinated and boosted he has only mild symptoms. He says he's working from home, but his office is fully open to serve the people of his district, which now includes all of Lake County. He reminded his constituents in his statement how important it is to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine and booster to "stay healthy and protect their friends and families".

Disaster declarations have been granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for crop losses for various counties including Lake and Mendocino due to late freezes last spring. The Secretarial disaster designation also includes Butte, Glenn, Napa, Tehama, Trinity and Yolo. This means there are emergency farm loans for physical and crop production losses of up to \$500,000 for the April freeze. Like the pandemic, there are also SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans available for small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private non-profits of any size. The application deadline is July 5, 2023.

To apply: Contact the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Ukiah at 707-468-9223. Hearing-impaired individuals should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600.

Additional information can be found at the USDA website:
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is reopening some of its license sales offices for the first time since 2020 due to COVID-19. Hunters, anglers and others can go in person to any of the sales offices to buy hunting and fishing licenses, tags, report cards, hunt applications, lands passes, Warden Stamps and other offerings. License sales and customer service folks are available by phone, mail, fax, email and internet.

Locations and hours are available on CDFW's website. But you may also be able to get them through an independent license sales agent, like a sporting goods store, large discount store, or bait and tackle shop.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office is reminding we are in flu season, and with that, a rise in cases of the flu, RSV, and Covid-19 cases are expected across the country. The agency says in Mendocino County flu and cold season is here early, and there is a rise in the number of infants and toddlers getting seriously ill. They also remind there are flu and Covid vaccines available at county vaccine clinics, pharmacies, community health centers, and doctor's offices. A reminder the viruses affect everyone including very young children, and most severely for the less than 2 year olds.

A new housing development aimed at getting people off the streets in Fort Bragg, has opened. The rent-subsidized Plateau is housing nearly 70 people including families and the elderly. There are one- and two-bedroom stand-alone units and two-story duplexes for families. It also includes meeting and activity areas, including basketball courts. The development has "permanent supportive housing" and was about \$27 million dollars. The rent varies for tenants from \$452 — \$1,048/month. Applications opened last spring and those chosen had to go through a rigorous process to be accepted. There are 300 senior applicants on the waitlist.

The Mendocino County Grand Jury's report on the school district has shed a light on special education services. After interviews with some parents, the Mendocino Voice reported some kids just weren't getting the attention they needed to succeed. Over the summer, the County's Civil Grand Jury found the Special Education program was not up to par. The report said the district was not providing mandated services. Some families filed complaints, and the district settled with them, but the families who sued never got their settlements. The Grand Jury also surmised that the school district was disincentivized to give proper services to students with disabilities because it was complex and expensive. But the Mendocino Voice reported the district's board disagreed and has yet to put into practice any of the recommendations.

The Mendocino Planning Commission has taken on short-term rentals, changing zoning regulations. Last week the 5 member panel voted to classify a single-family residence or accessory dwelling for transient living as 'Transient Habitation – Lodging (Limited)', which is actually a commercial use. This means anyone renting their place needs to get a Major Use Permit. At the meeting we also learned about 3% of all homes in the county are being used as vacation rentals. It was also noted, due to the amount of vacation home conversions, less homes are being built, a net loss over ten years of about 200 homes built. Some at the meeting were urging more homes to be built to address the shortage.

California's take from the sale of recreational cannabis is down for third quarter. As of last Wednesday, the total cannabis tax revenue for the third quarter came in at \$242 million. That included the excise tax, which was pegged at about \$128.4 million and \$113.6 million in sales tax revenue. The total wasn't folding in the outstanding returns, or any local taxes cities and counties collected. The second quarter for the year was just under \$300 million, including the excise tax, cultivation tax, and sales taxes. The state has made \$4.4 billion dollars since 2018 in total tax revenue from the sale of cannabis which includes the cultivation tax which the state stopped in July.

It was a record... Even though we were dealing with extreme heat and severe drought, the state had less of a fire season than some thought. An area of about 362,400 acres burned this year, compared to over 2.5 million acres last year. The Governor announced last week in Napa the end of the peak wildfire season. With that, the news, of smaller acreage burned, due in part to major investments in forest health and resilience projects and a bigger firefighting fleet. But some say it was more about a stroke of luck. And this year was more deadly. There were nine deaths in 2022, compared to three deaths in 2021. The biggest fire this year was the 77,000-acre Mosquito fire in Placer and El Dorado counties, compared to last year's biggest blaze, the 963,000-acre Dixie fire.

The Gov. says yes to give \$1 billion from the state budget to fund homelessness housing after pulling it from local governments he deemed unworthy because they weren't being aggressive enough housing the un-housed. At a meeting Friday with mayors and other local officials, he set out the goals. Newsom said it was good to hear about all the progress being made, and the acknowledgment that the state needed to step up its game cleaning up the streets. Just a couple of weeks ago Newsom put the \$1 billion dollars on pause telling cities and counties they needed better plans, and that the ones that he'd been sent were "simply unacceptable". Those working to solve the problem said the pause was counterproductive.

As we hit the two week mark from the General Election, the Mendocino County Elections Office says not much has changed. Susan Sher is still way ahead in the Ukiah City Council race. Sher had over 1,700 votes for about 22% of the overall vote, ahead of incumbent Mari Rodin who had 1,636 votes just under 22%. The other incumbent Juan Orozco was just behind Rodin with 1,585 votes for 21.05 percent. Those three will get seats unless it changes drastically in the next two weeks. Sher will fill Jim Brown's seat. He was running, but was in fourth place and there were only 3 seats open. Also on the ballot, Measures O and P were 11/22/22 passing. O had 60-percent "yes" votes and P had about 55-percent for "yes".

Cal Fire has awarded some new grants to maintain healthy and resilient forests. The agency's Wood Products and Bioenergy Team distributed \$14 million in new grants to non-profits, family businesses, wood products manufacturing facilities, and county and local governments. The 10 grants to help those bestowed with the awards to build infrastructure to have the capacity to sustainably manage California's forests as part of the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Since the beginning of the year Cal Fire has awarded \$54 million through the program. The grants come from the state's General Fund. They are also accepting new grant applications. Visit CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage for details.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is in today, Mendocino Supervisors are off this week. In Lake, Supervisors are hearing an analysis on proposed new rates for Middletown sewer customers. The Board will be sitting as the Sanitation District Board of Directors and hear from the Special Districts Administrators on the new rate structure which they've adjusted since sewer rates were adopted in 1995. The rates were supposed to be adjusted and considered around the time the Valley Fire broke out, but it was postponed. There were several disasters after that. Last year they picked it back up again and will discuss at their meeting today and have a public hearing after Thanksgiving.

A man from Ukiah's been arrested for drugs and having a flare gun. Police say they stopped a car in a Willits grocery store parking lot because of an expired registration, and other equipment violations. The driver, Steven Lawson admitted he didn't have a driver's license. So when the officer when to check his information his partner saw the guy playing with a plastic baggy with white crystal like powder on his lap. Lawson was then detained. Cops then found a live flare gun round in his pocket with ammunition for it too. Since it's considered a firearm, and the white powder turned out to be 22 grams of meth, he was booked into jail for possessing a controlled substance, possessing a firearm, possessing a controlled substance while armed and being a felon in possession of ammunition.

Congress has passed the FEMA Improvement, Reform and Efficiency (or Fire) Act. Congressmen Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson, along with Zoe Lofgren, the Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation and Jimmy Panetta celebrated the passage. It will update the Stafford Act which was passed to govern Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve wildfire preparedness and its response programs. That was one reason firefighters would be proactively deployed as red flag warnings are forecasted. Huffman says as climate change worsens the Fire Act is an important step forward. Thompson noted the state was on the frontlines of the climate crisis with wildfires and drought threatening communities.

A man from Ukiah has been arrested for carjacking and elder abuse. Police say Eric Norton Smith was the suspect in a carjacking yesterday morning behind Staples on Airport Park Blvd. A 78-year-old woman told police an unknown man demanded a ride to the hospital and when she tried to shut her car door, he stuck an aluminum baseball bat into the door, preventing her from closing it, then pulled her out of the car and took off. Someone randomly called the CHP at the same time to report a car driving erratically on northbound Hwy. 101 with damage that looked pretty new. The car matched the description of the carjacked vehicle. Officers caught up to Smith, a transient and took him to the hospital, where he was booked. He also had a warrant for his arrest.

Lake County's unemployment ticked back up slightly. With the latest jobless rates, California has recovered all of the jobs lost during the COVID recession. October's numbers showed Lake up to 4.5% in October from 4.3% in September. Mendocino was super low though at just 3.3% unemployed. The Employment Development Department reported all of the nearly 2,760,000 jobs lost in lockdowns are back. But most of the industries showed a reduction in force, but not in mining, logging or construction. There were an additional 56,000 jobs added in October, 30,800 jobs above the pre-pandemic total of February 2020.

More info on PG&E's Fire Victims Trust has been released and Congressman Mike Thompson has updated us on that and his related legislation. Thompson reported on the Fire Victims Trust which had to be set up after the utility claimed bankruptcy a few years ago. It was to go to those most impacted by the wildfires believed to have been ignited by PG&E's equipment failures. Thompson also said he doesn't think fire survivors should have to pay taxes on their settlement funds, which is the cornerstone of his legislation. He says he's been working with the IRS on the matter and says there are some existing tax provisions that can help defer or fully offset the Fire Victim Trust payment taxes.

Sheet1

As we head into one of the busiest weekends for travel, the CHP is once again beefing up patrols. The maximum enforcement period starts tonight around dinner time, at 6:01 p.m. ending 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27. The CHP Commissioner says with every holiday, they work to keep drivers safe as they head out to gatherings with friends and family, and that they'll take necessary action or give help as needed for those who may be stranded on the side of the road. They're also going to educate motorists and enforce laws across the state, as well as watch for unsafe driving, including impaired or distracted driving, 11/23/22 unsafe speed, and people not wearing seat belts.

Poachers have reportedly left behind a couple of elk in an area where newly released Condors frequent. The Northern California Condor Restoration Program has x-rayed the elk which were illegally killed and says one of the animals had enough lead in it to kill several condors. They say if someone had not reported the poached animals as soon as they did, there might have been dead condors too. The manager of the program and Yurok Wildlife Department Manager says the condors could have consumed meat from the dead elk and died. He says at least four of the recently released condors were "less than a 10-minute flight" from where the poaching took place. All of the meat with lead in it was removed from the area.

After 3 major crashes a local trucking company has settled a case with the federal government. Steve Wills Trucking and Logging crashed on Hwy 20 between January of 2020 and December of 2021 causing raw milk to spill into waterways. In one of the crashes, the driver died. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the settlement for violations of the Clean Water Act. In the first instance, in January of 2020, a tanker with raw milk crashed near Glenhaven, overturned and went down an embankment, releasing milk into Clear Lake. In April of that year, there was a second incident near Clearlake Oaks, again releasing raw milk into Clear Lake, and in the third, also in Lake County a truck went down an embankment into Grizzly Creek. The drivers were cited in two of the incidents, the third is being investigated, as the driver was killed.

As we head into the holiday weekend, the Redwood Empire Foodbank reports an unprecedented demand. They say they're also trying to meet family needs as the cost of food is rising. They say the number of households relying on the foodbank doubled between October of 2020 and October of 2021. In the year-plus since then, demand is up another 38-percent. Redwood Empire Foodbank is the largest hunger relief program in the North Bay. Organizers are expecting to spend 50-percent more money on food this year compared to last year.

The Lake County Public Health Office says they're concerned of a potential for a major increase in respiratory illnesses this holiday season. They report more respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu, common cold, COVID, which they say can impact healthcare overall locally. The agency says they're mostly concerned about all of the illnesses happening at once in young children or elderly members who may not be able to access care. The office says healthcare facilities should think about expanding their capacity for the evaluation and treatment of pediatric patients so any increase in patient volume can be managed.

Sheet1

Not a lot of meaty crab on holiday tables this year. There's a temporary restriction on recreational crab traps, but it's supposed to be lifted Monday. Perhaps in time for Christmas... The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says there were only three humpback whales in the area earlier this month, so the risk of entanglement isn't as great. So, the crab trap restriction is being lifted for the northernmost parts of the coast, but it's staying in place for other zones until the middle of next month, south of Point Arena. There were 39 humpbacks in that area just a couple weeks ago. They're also looking at the quality of crab meat. If it meets muster, the fishery will open Dec.16th, with the obligatory 64-hour gear setting period starting Dec. 13th.

They're adding two weeks onto the schedule of the downtown ice rink in Ukiah. The Community Services Supervisor says it takes up to four days to make enough ice for skating and since the city has all of the needed equipment to operate the rink, they only need to hire a contractor for electricity. There was a glitch with their Tesla chargers last week, but they're online in time for opening day this weekend. It's the seventh year they're had the ice rink in town, and this year they're opening early, instead of the first Saturday of December. And the season will continue until the middle of January.

The pandemic really did a number on enrollment at California State Universities which continues. Apparently, there are less transfers from community colleges even though freshman numbers have bounced back to near their pre-coronavirus pandemic levels. The Interim Chancellor says they have to give the challenge their immediate attention and be nimble and creative adapting. The latest undergraduate enrollment was off again, at about 404,820, down around 17,500 students than the year before. Besides less new transfer students, the Chancellor reported more full-time students were also changing to part-time.

Due to security reasons, we don't know where the Governor and his family are for the holiday weekend. The Governor left Sunday for travel, but the location of where the Newsom family is was secret and won't be revealed until he gets back. The California Highway Patrol made the decision not to divulge the family's travel plans, but apparently, it's out of state. The situation unfolded this way after his summer trip to see his in-laws in Montana. That's one of nearly 2 dozen states for which California banned state-funded travel because of discriminatory policies for LGBTQ+ people. Newsom reportedly paid for the trip with personal funds, but did maintain a taxpayer-funded security detail.

They're finally getting a new welcome sign at Woodland Community College's Lake County Campus in Clearlake. Lake Co News reports the new college entrance sign will be constructed by a company out of Sacramento, who will also make the one for Woodland Community College. The signs will also include the ability to post digital messages for the public, students, faculty, and staff. The LED sign at Woodland has failed a bunch and doesn't work anymore. And the one at the Lake County campus, is made of wood, peeling and fading. Plus there's no way to post messages on it. The new sign will allow those driving along Dam Road Extension to see messages about upcoming events and important activities at the campus.

Sheet1

The new Kids of Caltrans campaign is starting and looks to spur drivers to slow down for Caltrans workers and help keep roads safe. The new public awareness campaign is supposed to be impactful. It started this week as part of a partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety and the California Highway Patrol. There are pictures of children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of Caltrans workers in the "Move Over" campaign. The video messages will be shown all across the state until the end of next January. It's to also bring awareness to the highway workers, law enforcement officers, emergency personnel and tow truck drivers killed or injured along California's roadways every year.

No one is hurt and no homes or buildings are damaged after a Thanksgiving Day brush fire near Cloverdale. Dubbed the "Pine Fire", it broke out just before 8am Thursday in the 38000 block of Pine Mountain Road and Cal Fire declared it contained at about 7 acres around 12:30 pm. But the winds kept the firefighters concerned: the Press Democrat reports when the fire started the wind was going between 8 and 12 mph but by 9am it was going around 18 mph at which point Cal Fire reported one home was threatened. But they kept a handle on it, and by 11/25/22 the time the fire was contained the winds had died down to around 5 mph.

The trial has been set for a Nevada woman accused of setting a fire last year in Lake County. Nickelina Rose Williams was arrested by California Highway Patrol officers in October 2021 on suspicion of starting a fire along Highway 29 after she was seen walking away from the scene and an officer reportedly found a lighter and ignition material that matched evidence found at the fire. She is also accused of stealing a car and receiving stolen property. The Record Bee reports she has spent the last year undergoing court ordered psychological treatment and has been determined to be competent to stand trial. There are court conferences set for December and a jury trial in January. She has pleaded not guilty.

The Tree at the California State Capitol will be officially lit next Thursday December 1. Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom will host the 91st annual California State Capitol Tree lighting ceremony which will include several musical and dance performances from across the state which the Governor's office says will highlight California's diverse holiday traditions, native heritage, and spirit of inclusion. The 65-foot-tall white fir was donated by the U.S. Forest Service and will be lit with 14,000 LED lights and decorated with traditional ornaments and handmade ornaments made by kids and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

There is still time to apply to fill a couple of vacancies on the Lakeport City Council but not much. Monday November 28 at 5pm is the deadline to throw your hat in the ring for the seats left open when Mireya Turner became the Lake County Community Development Director and Michael Green was appointed by the governor to the Board of Supervisors. You can find the councilmember vacancy application on the city website www.cityoflakeport.com at the bottom of the home page. The individuals appointed will serve about two years with a term ending in 2024. You must live in Lakeport city limits, be at least 18 years of age, and be registered to vote in the City of Lakeport.

Sheet1

Rohnert Park is getting a new recycling and redemption center to get your California Redemption Value nickel or dime back for bottles and cans. On Tuesday the City Council voted unanimously to approve opening a recycling center at Flipside Thrift on Commerce Boulevard. The Press Democrat reports United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay will operate the center through a partnership with Zero Waste Sonoma thanks to a \$1 million grant from CalRecycle which is running a pilot program for putting in small CRV centers in underserved areas. The grant will keep this one open through 2026.

Kelseyville's fourth annual Festival of Trees is set for next Saturday, December 3 at Sophie's Day Spa on Main Street. The benefit for Hospice Services of Lake County includes a live auction of 25 exquisite Christmas trees designed and donated by community members as well as a silent auction. Proceeds support the Wings of Hope grief counseling program for children who have experienced the death of a loved one. You can get a free preview of the trees on Friday, December 2, from 4 to 8:30 p.m., before and after the Kelseyville Christmas in the Country & Parade of Lights. Get tickets online at www.lakecountyhospice.org or give them a call.

A couple of gas stations are reportedly on the proposal list for the Ukiah Planning Commission. The Daily Journal reports a developer has proposed a gas station and car wash with a convenience store on the site of the former Savings Bank building at 414 E. Perkins Street. Meanwhile Xpress Gas Station has put in a Major Use Permit request to resume operating a gas station 734 S. State Street. Other projects on the Ukiah Planning Commission's list: a Mendo LEAP indoor recreation center at 203 S. State and an expansion for the Ford Street Project recovery center and transitional housing.

Visual art as storytelling; that is the theme of a new juried group exhibition being assembled by Deep Valley Arts Collective and MEDIUM Art Gallery in Ukiah. They are inviting artists working in all media to submit to the exhibition titled "Storytelling". It can be pottery, song, dance, painting, photography, poetry, or any medium that can convey the theme. Applications will be assessed on three criteria: creativity, originality, and the visual/emotional impact of the image. There is no entry fee but there is a limit of five entries per artist. The deadline for entries is December 18. For all the submission information go to deepvalleyarts.org under Call for Entry.

A couple from Fort Bragg have been arrested for leaving their kids with a stranger and going for a hike. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. reports getting a call about possible domestic violence in the town of Mendocino possibly involving a small child. Deputies found the four-year-old girl with a good Samaritan by a church. The good Samaritan says they were approached by a couple who asked them to watch the girl, then they left. Then Flash Blanton and Amanda Dearth were located, the woman was the mom of the tot and said she didn't know where the girl was. Deputies say she was drunk and couldn't care for the girl. Also, Blanton is a sex offender who had not followed registration requirements. The two were arrested and booked into jail on \$25,000 bail.

Sheet1

A woman out on bail and probation after a hit and run last year has admitted she wasn't following the terms of her probation when she was found with a meth pipe. Gina Rae Bean of Fort Bragg was convicted for the hit and run, where someone died in September of 2021. She first denied she broke the law when she was found with a pipe last month. She had to go back to court because her original sentence for the hit and run was suspended. She was ordered to serve 210 days and another 60 days. With time served, she will get to serve that 60 in a probation-approved residential drug treatment program.

The Governor has announced money coming to some Native American Tribes for preventing and ending homelessness. \$20 million is for homeless assistance grants from the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency for housing projects in 16 tribal communities across the state. There are also four Homekey awards from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) worth \$27 million to pay for 75 homes for members of four tribes, including homeless children. The Governor says it will help get people off the streets into safe housing. He also said another \$20 million in tribal grants will be awarded in 2023. The Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Lakeport, the Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria, the Round Valley Indian Tribe in Covelo are among the tribes getting the awards.

A Northern Calif. lumber mill is being sued again, related to a wildfire that destroyed several dozen homes and killed multiple people. The lawsuit filed against Roseburg Forest Products Co. who is blamed for reckless conduct at their mill, operating in a manner that "caused an unreasonable risk of catastrophic fire." The lawsuit filed November 18th is on behalf of 8 people who say the company was negligent and had several health and safety violations related to the Sept. fire. Those suing are homeowners in the area of the Mill Fire in Siskiyou County. One of the plaintiffs is an 88-year-old woman who, the lawsuit claims was hurt during her evacuation and continues to suffer from PTSD, and related emotional trauma.

Volunteers are needed for the Historical Society of Mendocino County (HSMC). The Society is accepting applications for the board of directors. They say it's a great opportunity for those interested in local history and to help them further their mission of collecting, preserving and sharing the diverse history of Mendocino County. They go back to the mid-50's and need to fill out their 9 member panel. Those with strategic planning, grant writing, fundraising and backgrounds working in nonprofits, at museums or library sectors or business management are highly encouraged to apply.

Wreaths Across America, the national nonprofit will be at the Kelseyville Cemetery this year as one of their official locations for their mission to "Remember, Honor, Teach". The national movement includes dedicated volunteers who work in communities across the nation to honor our fallen heroes and thank them for their service, at the same time teaching our next generation about the sacrifices they have made for us to live freely. There are more than 3,000 participating locations this year where wreaths will be laid on December 17th by over two million volunteers. At the Kelseyville Cemetery, they're also trying to raise money so they can place 519 sponsored veterans' wreaths on the headstones of all the local heroes.

The Habematolel Pomo tribe of Upper Lake reports making a sizeable donation to the Northshore Fire Protection District to help them better respond to fires. The \$662,000 donation is part of the tribe's ongoing commitment to the community they say. The Fire Protection Chief thanked the tribe for their support to develop the new Northshore Fire Fuels Crew. The Chief says the Habematolel have always been a big supporter and with the latest donation they are hiring 11 new full timers who will get to receive health insurance and retirement benefits. The money will also pay for new equipment including, two F-350 crew cab utility trucks, one F-350 crew supervisor truck, a chipper with a trailer, six chainsaws, two pole saws and 11 sets of wildland fire personal protective equipment.

The National Park Service is reportedly taking possession of some mobile homes. Homeowners near Yosemite National Park say they have taped notes on their windows that say "this property is not abandoned". But some say bulldozers mowed their homes down anyway and did not pay them, nor were they ever evicted. One woman there over 3 decades says they first turned off her power and threatened to imprison them if they didn't get out. Several people living in the El Portal Trailer Park say they were forced to leave because Yosemite was concerned about power line safety, and because there were other plans for the area. Supposedly the 12 homeowners got 3 month's notice to leave. That's according to the Fresno Bee, per a Freedom of Information Act request.

California is reportedly trying to find out where racial discrimination exists in health care. Attorney General Rob Bonta says he's looking into the way hospitals make clinical decisions, schedule operating rooms and their billing practices. He recently asked 30 hospital CEOs for a list of software programs they're utilizing. He says that's to see what algorithms may direct more attention and resources to white patients than to minorities. Bonta says "Unequal access to our health care system needs to be combated and reversed, not carried forward and propagated."

The state Attorney General is warning the public about a scam to try to snag middle-income folks tax refunds. Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta says the Middle-Class Tax Refund is for one-time relief for those struggling as the cost-of-living rises. His consumer alert warns there are crooks out there trying to take advantage of Californians who will receive the refund in their bank account or with a prepaid debit card. He says not to be fooled. You can check with the California Franchise Tax Board to get an estimate of what you should get back, many will get 11/29/22 between \$2-300. Those in higher tax brackets won't receive anything.

A warning from the Mendocino County Public Health Dept. about the trifecta, Covid-19, influenza, and RSV all circulating at high rates. The department warns flu season has arrived early and that means there's been a jump in cases locally, especially in infants and children who have been visiting the emergency room at increasing rates. Public Health is warning the ER's are filling up and there are long wait times. So, to reduce the burden on hospital staff, stay home if you are sick, especially young kids who may be vulnerable to RSV. There are flu and COVID vaccines available at several locations in the county, including county vaccine clinics, doctor's offices, community health clinics, and pharmacies. Go to the ER if you feel shortness of breath, dehydrated or have a change in mental status.

Two women from Ukiah have been arrested after someone reported their car was broken into and a bunch of stuff was stolen. The woman told police a credit card was used at three different businesses. Cops found two women had used that card at Walmart. Angela Rivera and Veronica Orozco reportedly used the card and were detained. They were found with several grams of meth, 4 bank cards, a club card, and a CA driver license with different people's names on them, along with other stolen property from the woman's car who said it was broken into. The pair also had a concealed dagger. Then during a search of a motel room, that turned up more drugs, including heroin and fentanyl, a rifle and ammo. The two were booked into jail and held on \$75,000.00 for Rivera and \$50,000 for Orozco.

A new online holiday gift guide has been launched by West Business Development Center to help local businesses. The <http://www.mendomarketplace.com> site is dedicated to products made here in Mendocino, included with that are also experiences, besides gifts and arts and crafts. The West Center says they recognized when the COVID lockdowns were happening they had a unique ability to help small businesses in Mendocino County during the holiday season. Their CEO says the marketplace helps the local small business community to bring in some extra revenue during the holiday season. She says they're marketing it in Northern Calif., Sacramento and the Central Valley. This is the third year in a row for the marketplace.

Adventist Health Mendocino Coast is about to launch their new electronic health records. Starting Thursday, the Cerner system will be available for healthcare professionals which the hospital says will greatly improve the ease of providing care and the quality and safety of the care. Adventist Health put up about \$12 million dollars for the program which they say is the standard in electronic health records and is used throughout Adventist Health. Having all the hospitals on the same system helps to provide best practices of care and makes sharing the records across facilities a simple task.

The Sonoma County Sheriff has been sanctioned by a federal judge, along with his department for not holding onto footage from an-custody suicide. The family of Nino Bosco says the loss was intentional because it was damaging to the county. A federal judge ruled officers lost critical footage about what happened to Bosco and instructed a jury to presume the footage was lost on purpose. But the Sheriff's office says the loss of 14 minutes of video was not intentional. The 30-year-old man in Sheriff's custody died in July of 2019 after he shoved a bologna sandwich down his throat, hours after trying the same thing in an attempt to asphyxiate himself.

A law firm that's had experience getting money to landowners in the way of the Great Redwood Trail has reportedly filed a lawsuit for nearly 90 people. The firm announced the case against the federal government for 88 property owners with land across from the rail-to-trail conversion. The firm also says more are suing in coming days against the trail planned from San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay on the old railroad corridor. Those suing are in Eureka, Eel River Canyon, and Willits. It's on the heels of another firm suing the fed for 170 other property owners in Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

Sheet1

It's the third week of workers at UC campuses striking, which is reported to be the largest ever in the nation for higher-education workers. 48,000 workers are striking to get higher pay, but without more money from the state or federal government, there could be cuts in hiring grad students, cut into research and academic experiences, cause grant applications to be less competitive. Four United Auto Workers bargaining units at all 10 UC campuses and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory are also complaining they don't have enough money due to "administrative bloat". And Academic Senate leaders say if the striking goes on, they may have to hire temporary readers or make final exams optional.

That standalone schoolhouse in Finley, that's been vacant for some time is about to be restored. There's been talk about refurbishing the 151-year-old schoolhouse on Finley Road East for a few years. Lake County News owners have formed a nonprofit, the Lucerne Area Revitalization Association to spur work on projects around Lake County. The non-profit nick-named LARA has been granted the old Kelsey Creek Schoolhouse with a 50-year lease. As part of #GivingTuesday, LARA has launched a fundraiser to start the renovation and restoration in 2023. The first thing they say they'll do is remove old lead paint inside and out. They will then move to fix the windows and make other repairs including fixing water damage, well and septic tank testing; rewiring; and stabilizing the building.

For more information, contact LARA at 707-200-4709, or email Elizabeth Larson at elarson@lakeconews.com or John Jensen at jjensen@lakeconews.com.

A meeting of the Clearlake City Council this week will spend time on a proposal to expand the city's sphere of influence. With that the council will also consider an annexation. The meeting is Thursday night, which will start in closed session with the appointment of a police chief. Then it's off to the races with the rest of the meeting where public comment will be accepted and the discussion of annexing 302 acres on Ogulin Canyon Road. It would be the first annexation in over 40 years. They will also look to potentially adopt a resolution of intent to amend the city's sphere of influence and general plan, adopt rezoning designations, prepare an environmental analysis and initiate proceedings with the Lake Local Agency Formation Commission for the annexation parcels which the owner, Lake Vista Farms asked the city for.

The yearly burn ban for Lake County is over. As 8:00 am, you'll be able to burn again with a permit and many caveats. Cal Fire says wildfire risk is way down due to recent rains, but you will need burn permits for all outdoor burning in the Lake County Air Basin, which you can pick up at your local Fire Protection District. There is also a Smoke Management Plan required for burns that you're planning over several days, overnights or standing vegetation burns, whole tree or vine removal, burns over 20 acres, and any other burn where there might be a lot of smoke. Check out the Smoke Management Plan at the Lake County Air 11/30/22 Quality Management District office. But call ahead for an appointment.

Sheet1

More than 200,000 dollars has been awarded to local animal welfare groups from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. The Animal Welfare Grant Program from the Foundation donated \$208,000 to support groups caring for pets and wildlife. The grants from \$2,500 to \$80,000 were based on the organization itself and how they operate. The money went to county shelters, private veterinary clinics, nonprofits, and state wildlife offices. Some of the larger organizations have been dealing with challenges like supply chain issues, staffing challenges, and lost revenue due to canceled fundraisers. The money made possible through the foundation thanks to the Jacob-Woods Animal Care Fund.

Less water for Agriculture use reported at the latest Redwood Valley County Water District Board of Directors meeting. On November 17th the Board met and said there is still enough water left for ag use which has to be used by the end of the year. Since we're in for another dry year, they say it's a good time to fill ponds for use for frost protection next spring. They say they're working on better determining the amount of ag water customers are using in the future. They say some folks have contracts for more water than they use, but there's been no way to track unused water. They also discussed the draft working document for the consolidation of water for the City of Ukiah, Redwood Valley, Millview, Willow, and Calpella Water Districts.

Cigarette maker R.J. Reynolds along with others are going to the U.S. Supreme Court to get an emergency order so California won't ban flavored tobacco products after all. But the will of the voters is at stake here as they passed the ban in something of a landslide earlier this month. There was also a ban two years ago by the state legislature, but it never happened after tobacco companies petitioned to get it on a ballot. That backfired after almost two-thirds of voters approved of the ban of cotton-candy vaping juice to menthol cigarettes. It's supposed to go into effect by Dec. 21st. But in their last-ditch effort, the cigarette manufacturers filed a federal lawsuit to challenge the ban, then the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the company's emergency motion, so it's off to the Supremes next.

Xmas is kicking off early in Downtown Kelseyville with the yearly Christmas in the Country and Parade of Lights. On Friday, the "Christmas in Toyland" celebration kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with the merchant open house. Then it's the Parade of Lights tour through downtown. They're having pictures with Santa, of course. That's over at Lady Luck Garage until 8:30 p.m., featuring hot cocoa, cider and cookies, plus loads of food, including pizza, chili, tamales and more.

The Noyo Food Forest needs the community's help. They need volunteers to pop over to help pull weeds, plant seedlings, and perform other garden maintenance. The location is behind Fort Bragg High School.

The Food Bank is asking for help providing them with more bags. They ask if you have any extra Harvest Market bags to bring them back so they can be filled for the holidays. Staff there ask for them to be dropped off at the North end of Franklin.

Sheet1

A new report says over seven-thousand convicted pedophiles have been released from California prisons. The report of almost 55,000 convicted sex offenders since 2019. It showed many were released after serving under one year. And that goes for predators who were found guilty of continuous sexual abuse of a child. The data released also showed 76-percent of them committed crimes involving children. At last count there were almost 62-thousand offenders in the state.

That major strike going on at UC campuses statewide had a breakthrough, postdoctoral scholars and academic researchers reportedly reached a tentative agreement. That will give them more pay and cost-of-living increases. But apparently, they're not jumping back into work so quick, instead they're staying away from campuses in solidarity with around 36,000 graduate student workers still on strike. The union says they're happy they were able to reach agreements for some, which will improve their quality of life, but now's the time for UC to make concessions to Academic Student Employees and Student Researchers to reach fair agreements to recognize the contributions those workers make.

There was no Board of Supervisors meeting in Mendocino County last week or this week. But in the latest report to the Supervisors from the CEO, they got an update on recent labor negotiations. CEO Darcie Antle said all eight of the Memos of Understandings with labor unions for county employees were all expiring. She reported only three of the eight had reached an agreement with the county: the Deputy Sheriff's Association, the Mendocino County Law Enforcement Management Association, and the Mendocino County Association of Confidential Employees. The report said many were looking for higher wages so the county doesn't lose them and to attract new people, for which the County agrees, per Antle. But before it's possible, Antle says they have to fix the salary system and health insurance and address other structural issues.

The relief checks going out to the middle class in California are up to more than \$5 billion so far. The latest data is that 19 million eligible residents and their families got the stimulus money for inflation relief. The amount adds up to over half of the total payouts that are being made. The rest should reach bank accounts or mailboxes by the beginning of next year. The so-called Middle Class Tax Refund adds up to \$9.5 billion dollars. As we reported yesterday, the payments are between \$200-\$300 for most, and up to \$1,050 depending on tax filing status from 2020 income tax returns and whether or not recipients have claimed dependents.

A man from Clearlake Oaks says he's not responsible for the death of a woman in a hit and run last June. At William Len's arraignment, the 48-year-old pleaded not guilty for the hit and run that killed Amanda Arney of Nice. He also pleaded not guilty to special allegations related to the Highway 20 crash into the woman walking along the highway late at night, ending up alone down an embankment. Len will go to trial for involuntary manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and hit and run with permanent injury or death in February. The CHP arrested Len after an investigation. He was booked into Lake County Jail 12/01/22 but released on bail.

Sheet1

There's still one Congressional race up in the air, but a couple others were called. There were still two races from the mid-terms that were too close to call. There were still hundreds of thousands of unprocessed ballots for the race between Republican farmer John Duarte and Democratic Assemblymember Adam Gray. There were less than 1,000 votes between the two in a new 13th District in the middle of the Central Valley. Another two House seats went to Republicans, Assemblymember Kevin Kiley won over Democrat Kermit Jones for the new 3rd district, and Republican Rep. David Valadao, who voted to impeach Trump, won over Democratic Assemblymember Rudy Salas in Bakersfield.

Money divvied out with Measure B funds has been made public. The total budget for the new mental health center was just under \$937,500 and of the money there's still about \$285,000 or so unspent. The money for Measure B goes to help those who have not been able to afford crisis after care. Also over at the Phoenix House for those referred by Redwood Community Crisis Services, they have six people residing there. And in case you didn't hear, there's also a mobile crisis response team now, seven days a week, 2 full time staffers respond to calls.

After an independent investigation into personal data being released on folks buying firearms, the Dept. of Justice released information. The agency says the investigation into the Firearms Dashboard release by independent legal and forensic cyber experts showed indeed confidential information on about 192,000 people who applied for concealed carry weapons (CCW) permits was unintentionally released. It happened last June. Atty. General Rob Bonta says the "unauthorized release of personal information was unacceptable" calling it a breach of trust. Bonta says the state had hired a law firm to investigate with an outside cyber expert.

You may have visited, but you cannot any longer... the old Sunflower Chinese Restaurant, and the Lakeshore Inn before that, a historic building in Clearlake, has been torn down. The restaurant on Lakeshore Dr. was blasted away last month, leaving a plot of dirt behind. Lake County News reports the building went from an Inn to a restaurant but closed in 2018. The city deemed it a public nuisance and a public health and safety hazard back then. And the owner didn't fix the issues, so the city sent them an abatement order last year and hired a contractor to demolish the old eyesore. The next owner said she'd abate the building in July, but that never happened, so down the building went.

No comment from the Mendocino County District Attorney about the case against the former police chief yet. DA David Eyster asked the state attorney general's office to say he needed to recuse himself in the case against former Chief Noble Waidelich who's accused of sexual assault while on duty and in uniform. Mendo Fever reports the case has continued for practically half of a year, but not much has been released to the public. Eyster has not released any details on the refusal for the recusal by the Justice Dept. either. They turned him down so he has to oversee the Waidelich case. He also hasn't commented on the light sentence for a former cop accused of burglary, rape and sexual harassment.

A big turnout this year for the free Thanksgiving feast at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg. For the 26th year in a row, Mendocino coast residents were invited to the event, which this year, served a history-making 1,065 free meals. 65 more meals than the year before, and 265 more than in 2020, during the height of the COVID outbreak. All of the meals were not for the needy but included folks who may not have otherwise had a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The meals had to be picked up or delivered, there was no in house dining. Also, the Fort Bragg Food Bank had distribution sites across the coast.

Two inmates have been shot and killed by correctional officers at a Northern California prison. Two officers took out the inmates who they say were trying to stab another inmate to death. Frank Nanez and Raul Cuen died Tuesday morning at High Desert State Prison in Susanville after they attacked Anthony Aguilera with homemade weapons. Prison officials say the pair wouldn't listen to orders to stop, so they used chemical agents and a warning shot, to no avail, so they shot them. Each were pronounced dead at the prison, just after they were shot. The stabbing victim was rushed to the hospital in serious condition. The officers were placed on administrative leave. The two who died were in for murder.

A plan has been approved by the Fort Bragg City Council to buy a large plot of land from the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District. 3 reservoirs will be built on 30 acres as part of the deal, which was approved unanimously, for a price tag of \$2,420,579. The city will also put together a community forest on another 550 acres of land, so habitat can be preserved as part of a deed restriction or conservation easement. The trio of reservoirs would store as much as 44 million gallons of water, near the treatment plant and high-power PG&E transmission lines. Waterfall Gulch, Newman Gulch, and the Noyo River will be used to fill the tanks.

Measure O, the initiative to raise the sales tax to bolster the library system has officially passed. About 60% of voters in Mendocino County punched yes for Measure O for the permanent ¼ cent sales tax after a petition drive landed it on the ballot. The money will be there to continually maintain and improve services for the County Library System. 40% of what's collected will be used to upgrade facilities and expand them. The same thing happened over a decade ago. Back in 2011, voters said yes to Measure A for a 1/8 cent sales tax. But that was for longer hours and more collections and programs, but not enough for long deferred capital improvement projects.

12/02/22

The Ukiah City Council has approved of a loan to develop a mixed-use project with homes on E. Gobbi Street. At a meeting on Monday the council unanimously voted to approve the loan after committing to the funding previously. The Asst. City Manager says they had to take the loan approval to the City Council to authorize it through the Housing Trust Fund which is a revolving fund to help the city develop affordable and other types of housing throughout the community. The city came up with the fund in 2017 as a local match to support more housing applications. The city staff report reminded that the council had already given approval for the project to be developed back in 2019.

Snarled traffic expected in Fort Bragg due to some Christmas festivities. The yearly Lighted Truck Parade tomorrow night on Main and Franklin Street has the streets closed to cars street starting at 6:00 PM ahead of the 6:30 parade opening. The streets are partially closed for a couple of hours so police are reminding to drive cautiously in the area. There will be signs up warning about the closures. Police are also thanking the Skunk Train and Fort Bragg Unified School District for helping with the road closures this year so they don't have to pay staff to work the event, which the department says will keep costs down.

A man from Fort Bragg's busted by cops after a traffic stop finds forged checks. Mendocino Deputies on routine patrol in Willits stopped Carlos Ogawa as they saw him get out of a car with someone else. They knew he was out of jail on bond and could be searched. They looked in the car and found a checkbook belonging to a woman in Ukiah which they say looked to have been altered to include his name in the Pay to line. They also found other stolen items in the car and arrested Ogawa for Felony Forgery, Felon in Possession Blank Checks, Possession Stolen Property and Felony Commit Offense While on Bond. He was being held on \$25,000.00 bail.

It's not over yet. We're in the third year, almost, of coronavirus and health officials in Calif. say there are some indications we could be in for another winter surge of the virus. The case rate statewide is about 13 cases per 100,000 residents/day. The California Department of Public Health also reports test positivity at nearly 11%, which is up from around 8% a week ago, and the first spike above 10% since about August. It was as low as 4% in late October. But it was also at around 16% back in July and key indicators show the rate is climbing now as fast as it did in early summer. The agency reported nearly 3,800 COVID-positive patients in hospitals too. Another key indicator is a major surge in cases in nursing facilities.

Clearlake City staff are going to continue pushing through housing projects in the Sulphur Fire burn area. The City Council says the staff should still review, then approve the rebuilding projects even if they don't adhere to current zoning requirements, but with certain conditions. The City Manager Alan Flora asked for the topic to be covered so the Community Development director could review and approve "legal nonconforming status" projects and permits as long as they don't affect health and welfare. The fire burned in 2017 and destroyed over 160 structures in Clearlake and Clearlake Oaks due to a broken PG&E power pole.

The Fort Bragg Food Bank has expanded just ahead of the holidays. The Advocate reports the yearly Season of Sharing fundraiser starts as the new addition is added for more storage as the food bank is bursting at the seams. The Food Bank bought a 15,000-square-foot warehouse in Willits so they could serve more people. Management says it will help them be more efficient in the way they deliver food, allow for more storage for goods closer to inland pantries, and have enough space for bigger shipments of dry goods they couldn't hold before now. They say they'll also add more refrigeration units for meat, fresh veggies and dairy items.

Sheet1

Not a lot of water is expected to be diverted from the state's largest reservoirs to cities and farms next year. The Department of Water Resources says Lake Oroville and others may only be meeting five percent of what the demand is so folks may have to conserve more than they are now. Unless we get slammed with rain and snow this winter, supplies will continue to be low and we could be looking at another severe drought year. And still water experts don't think it would end the three year old dry period.

Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout are expected to start spawning in the Eel River. The conservation group California Trout, who uses a sonar system to count migrating steelhead and salmon climbing the fish ladder to spawn upriver, say there were nearly 1,800 Chinook salmon that moved to local spawning grounds in Humboldt County. But they also say they can't really estimate the total amount that will spawn, but think it will be about the same as the 2018-19 and 19-20 seasons. They also warn to be careful crossing rivers, especially in shallow areas to avoid disturbing spawning because you might accidentally crush fish eggs

The Diocese of Santa Rosa reports they'll file for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection due to the amount of sexual abuse lawsuits filed against the Diocese. The Press Democrat reports the lawsuits started pouring in after the statute of limitations was lifted for a three-year 'window'. The Diocese reports there could potentially be over 130 claims from all the way back to 1962 when the Diocese was first established, with most of the cases from the 70's and 80's. The Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa is filing the bankruptcy as an overall entity or umbrella like organization for the parishes and Catholic schools within the Diocese, but those entities are not part of the filing.

12/05/22

The Blue Zones Project Mendocino County says Taste Buds will be the first restaurant approved in Mendocino County. Taste Buds features Jamaican inspired food. On Wednesday they're having a ribbon cutting celebration around dinner time that will include drinks and samples of the Blue Zones approved dishes. You can find more info on the Blue Zones Project Mendocino County at mendocinocounty.bluezonesproject.com and check out their Facebook and Instagram at [@bzpmendocinocounty](https://www.instagram.com/bzpmendocinocounty).

The new state Legislature is being sworn in as the Governor searches for ways to punish the oil industry for higher gas prices. Newsom says the oil industry is intentionally "price gouging" because of policies in the state that will eventually phase out our continued dependence on fossil fuels to slow climate change. The Governor has vowed to support bills with monetary penalties for exorbitant oil company profits, if there's a special legislative session. The president has also threatened a higher tax on major oil companies unless they up production, but the Governor has not moved on that idea, even though he's broached the subject in the past.

Sheet1

After the Mendocino City Community Services District Board of Directors moved for rate increases they heard from the public loud and clear, the price increases will stand. At the board's meeting last Monday there were protest votes against the increases which would step up over five years to nearly twice what they are now. But the board only received 49 no votes out of 456 eligible votes. So, it passed overwhelmingly as they needed 222 no's to lose. The sewer rate increase got 124 yes votes. And the groundwater management rate increase only got 46 no votes. So next Monday the board will revisit the topic and is expected to approve the rate increases.

Fee waivers have been created by the Fort Bragg City Council for Planning Commission appeals for low-income residents. Right now, the fee to appeal to the commission is \$1,000. If they choose to though, the City Council can refund this fee if the appeal is successful. But many in Fort Bragg cannot afford the fee to begin with. There are situations where the fee can be waived, like if you're living inside the 300-foot impact zone of the project to be appealed, and if you can prove financial hardship. There is also a limit to the amount, only one fee waiver per property per year. At the same meeting last week the city manager was authorized to complete the documents to buy 582 acres currently owned by the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District for three new reservoirs.

Clearlake is looking to extend existing commercial cannabis development agreements. Agreement holders will get seven more years, and the production fee will be lowered from 5% to 1%. A new business must get a regulatory permit and development agreement. Last week the City Council considered the extension for nine commercial businesses with a regulatory permit and development agreement with the city. There are 27 permits, more than the number of operators since many of them have multiple permits. The agreements are good for up to three years now, but would be able to extend for seven more, for a ten-year total.

Cal Fire had a visit out to the coast to discuss shaded fuel breaks in the Jackson Demonstration Forest. The agency held a meeting at the Caspar Community Center a few weeks ago to discuss with residents who live close to the forest ways they can extend fuel breaks outside of the boundaries of the forest. Stakeholders like community fire prevention organizations were also in the house delivering presentations to residents. The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council also discussed home-hardening, defensible space measures, and fire safety projects to protect against possible wildfires in the future.

A burglary has been reported at the Elk Store in Elk. The store reportedly ripped off Friday. One of the owners posted about the heist Friday on their Instagram account, calling it a "holiday season bummer." They reported someone broke a window to the general store and deli and swiped thousands worth of merchandise. The crook or crooks also broke the store's antique counter cash drawer. The owners say they're still catching up from losses due to the pandemic, and say it's a hard time for small businesses on the coast as it is.

Sheet1

At the White House state dinner, the Anderson Valley was in the house. Roederer Estate's sparkling rosé was served when the French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte visited the president and first lady. Roederer Estate's Brut Rose N.V. was served at the dinner, where there were also multiple other California-crafted products. The winemaker says the White House called to find a distributor in Washington DC, and they were "pleasantly surprised" and said they were "incredibly proud" for the opportunity.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office has their annual "Shop with a Cop" outing planned. The lead officer for the event each year is Sheriff Sgt. John Drewery. He updated locals about this year's event at the Judge's Breakfast in Clearlake. Drewery has been leading the program since 2015 at the same time the Sheriffs and You Foundation donated \$10,000 for Valley fire victims and it's been growing yearly. It apparently began many years ago as a group of cops would pool together their own money to help disadvantaged children in the area with presents for Christmas. The next event is next Tuesday. Kids each get \$200, with that they have to buy shoes, pants and a warm jacket and the rest is theirs to buy whatever they want.

Heads up to all who voted in Lake County... the Lake County Registrar of Voters Office reports a certification of the vote for the mid-term election which happened November 8th, will take place on December 8th, this Thursday. Any resident who voted by mail and received a "Signature Verification Statement" or an "Unsigned Ballot Envelope Statement", the deadline to get those to the Registrar of Voters office is today by 5pm. They can be mailed, faxed or even emailed over. They cannot count your ballot otherwise.

Assemblyman Jim Wood is coming to the next Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting. The Board will first look at an amendment to the county code, then hear from the Assemblyman on end of year action in the Legislature for the 2nd Assembly District. Also during the meeting tomorrow, Supervisors will consider a mitigated negative declaration for the replacement of a bridge in Laytonville over Dutch Charlie Creek.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is considering the appointment of a new sheriff-coroner after the current Sheriff, Brian Martin, announced his retirement. The new Sheriff-Coroner will take office until a permanent replacement is announced, and that person will serve through Jan. 2nd of 2025. According to Calif. law, the current highest-ranking officer will fill the position as interim sheriff-coroner. So that position will go to Captain Christopher D. Chwialkowski who's next in line of authority. Chwialkowski will take over December 31st and serve until Supervisors have interviewed candidates. They will formally appoint someone after that. Interviews will take place December 20th. And finally they'll consider adding Juneteenth as a county paid holiday.

The Konocti Fire Safe Council (KFSC) are going door to door to neighbors for evacuation preparedness. The community outreach on Soda Bay Road and Point Lakeview Road has reportedly been met with positive feedback. The Outreach Committee Chair says folks have been receptive to hearing how they can be prepared if there's a wildfire. They've visited as many as 150 residents in the Westwind Mobile Home Park, Walnut Cove Mobile Home Park, and surrounding neighborhoods. The area shares a one lane road in and out.

After case numbers decreased during the COVID pandemic, syphilis cases are back up. At least in Sonoma County. There's been 144 cases of early-stage syphilis recorded this year, compared to 116 cases and 120 cases in 2020. The increase this year is concerning to health experts who say they're mostly concerned about expectant moms at risk of infecting babies when they're born. The Sonoma County Public Health Dept. says the cases are always up and down, but more people are getting tested now than they did during lockdown, so that could account for the small spike in new cases. The department reports it's similar across the nation, and in Calif. Syphilis going untreated can cause serious health problems.

Kaiser Permanente Nurses and nurse practitioners have voted for a new four-year contract with some of the largest salary increases in about 2 decades. The California Nurses Association represents over 21,000 registered nurses and nurse practitioners across Northern California. The union president says the new contract, which includes a 22.5% increase, will help them recruit new nurses and retain RN's, but most importantly, she says, it will help them provide patients with improved care. Kaiser had been talking to the union since summertime. They announced a tentative deal last month, just ahead of an intended strike and after a 10-week strike by mental health workers earlier this year.

An elderly man in a 2007 Cadillac has died after a car crash near Fort Bragg. The Sheriff's Office and CHP reported the crash Friday night on SR-20, east of Fort Bragg ended after the driver left the road, rolled down an embankment and crashed into several trees, resting on its roof. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators say he was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. The 81-year-old man's name was withheld until next of kin could be notified.

Governor Newsom has convened a special session of the Legislature to consider a cap on excess oil and gas profits – money the Governor says is straight up – price gouging. According to Triple-A, gas in California is way higher than the national average. Alexander Walker Griffin is vice mayor of the city of Hercules and praised the move.

:07 "We've seen the record-breaking prices at the pump, \$6-, \$7-a-gallon gas prices at our local gas stations, which is why have to do something."

1

Tag: The oil and gas industry cites multiple reasons for the price hikes, blaming reduced capacity at refineries due to maintenance, plus the state's moves to phase out fossil fuels, and supply issues related to the war in Ukraine.

Second Cut: Igor Tregub is a Ukrainian immigrant who chairs the environmental caucus for the California Democratic Party. He says the continued dependence on foreign oil is fueling Vladimir Putin's war.

:13 "The nerve of oil and gas corporations to use the war in my homeland to make exorbitant profits is inhumane. The Legislature must see this as a national security issue and get it done."

1

Third Cut: Former San Luis Obispo mayor Heidi Harmon says the state needs to hold the fossil-fuel industry accountable – and plow excess profits into programs that mitigate the effects of global warming.

A new study says the wine industry has a major impact on the state's economy. The report put together by a pair of wine industry groups says the wine industry contributes over 73-billion-dollars a year to California. One official with the California Association of Winegrape Growers says the report shows that California vineyards are "cradles of economic growth and pillars to many communities around the state. The study also shows that the economic impact of the wine industry has grown by almost 30-percent in the last six years.

As Fentanyl continues to be used nationwide, a bill has been introduced in the Calif. Legislature to help prevent children from overdosing on drugs. The senator from San Jose officially introduced the bill that would give more school districts the reversal medication Narcan and train staff how to administer it. Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Most people dying from it across the state are under the age of 24.

More inflation relief payments are going out this week. The Middle-Class-Tax-Refund by way of direct deposit or debit cards have been sent out to millions across the state already. This week another bunch of debit cards went out. But most have already received their money by direct deposit. The state Franchise Tax Board says 95-percent of all payments will be made before the first of the year. Last week we reported 21-million people had already received their payment to help offset high gas and cost of living prices.

The continued strike by 48-thousand University of California workers has entered the fourth week. There are plans to continue the protest until officials resume bargaining talks. There was a report of a group staging a sit-in for three hours at the UC Office of the President in Oakland then disrupted a meeting. And In Sacramento, about 17 people were cited for trespassing at another office, while about two-thousand workers rallied outside the Capitol building.

Sheet1

A request has been made for emergency protection for the Clear Lake hitch. The Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake and the Scotts Valley Band of Pomos with the Center for Biological Diversity is making the request under the Endangered Species Act. They say the fish's numbers have gone off a cliff over recent years and that it's possible, if something's not done soon, they'll be extinct. The chair of the Big Band of Pomos said state and federal agencies need to try harder and should welcome Tribes to co-manage their land and waters. And a lawyer for the Center says the hitch cannot take another year of failed spawning, and says the Fish and Wildlife Service has failed to protect the hitch and only "emergency protections can correct this grievous error and give the hitch a fighting chance."

Longer hours in place over at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley's Pediatrics clinic. This week the pediatrics team announced they'll have an after-hours clinic Mondays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is for parents who have been seeing the doctors with their children already, and who may need additional help during the surge of respiratory disorder cases in Mendocino County. They're mostly seeing children with cold, flu, RSV or COVID symptoms. They are also accepting same-day appointments for sick children and ask for parents to schedule appointments during normal operating hours for services like prescription refills, wellness visits and physicals.

A man in Willits says the president of Mendocino Railway, AKA the Skunk Train offered him a bunch of money for his home to expand the railway. John Meyer now has a go fund me account up saying now they're trying to take his property by eminent domain. Meyer says his property was supposed to be built out with a few vacation rentals, but instead the Skunk Train parent company had their property appraised and is trying to take it out from under him. He said in court the company claimed it was a public utility and freight company transporting goods between Willits and Fort Bragg. Meyer says fighting the company in court has cost him more than his property may be worth now. Meyer is trying to raise \$150,000 and so far has raised about \$2,500.

12/07/22

Members are needed for the Federal Advisory Committee on National Forests. Nominations are being accepted for the national forests in the Northwest Forest Plan in Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. The committee provides input on modernizing landscape management, promoting sustainability, climate change adaptation, and wildfire resilience. There are 20 members on the committee for two year terms. Applications are being accepted through the middle of January.

For more information, visit the Forest Service's Northwest Forest Plan page or the committee page.

A man from Hopland has been arrested after reports to Deputies about a couple of drunk dudes. A Deputy responded to the 13000 block of South Highway 101 and found one of them, while the other started walking away. They say Johny Nunez-Garcia was ordered to stop, but ran, and a chase began. The Deputy easily caught up to the guy, who they say started punching the Deputy. The Deputy, avoiding the man, had to chase him again as he took off. Then someone witnessing the whole thing helped the Deputy take Nunez-Garcia down. He was finally detained and booked into jail on \$15,000 bail. The Deputy had minor injuries.

Sheet1

A man in Willits is on the run after what police say was a brutal beating. On Monday Christopher Roy Kirsch was blamed for beating someone with a baseball bat. Police say the victim had serious injuries and Kirsch was on the run and they had no idea what the motive was, or if the two men knew each other. The police chief also says it's unclear where Kirsch lives, and that he may have been staying at the victim's home.

Members of the Yurok Tribe could get peace officer status so they can access state law enforcement databases. Assemblymember James C. Ramos has introduced legislation so tribal police officers can use the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). The Yurok Tribe is a sponsor of the bill which if it passes will give them power to work on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People cases. Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James says Indigenous Women and Girls have been disproportionately affected by violence, human trafficking, and murder. He says they go 'missing' at much higher rates than people of other racial groups. They have also declared an emergency due to the crisis.

There's a new petition being circulated in connection to the management of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. The Coalition to Save Jackson State Forest says it outlines their vision for the forest (JDSF) and advocates for new management. The Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki peoples use the land which is also filled with various species of trees, is a prime example of biodiversity, a key tool in the fight against climate change, and a well-known spot for outdoor recreation. The petition asks for lawmakers and the governor to take action to conserve the forest. So far petitions circulating have inked 2,000 signatures.

For the first time, the federal government is auctioning off renewable energy from Calif., in the form of wind. The Biden Administration is set to auction rights for private companies to build wind turbines off the California coastline. It's like the sale of offshore oil drilling years ago. The two sections of land the fed is looking to work with are in Humboldt County, about 20 miles outside of Eureka, and Morro Bay, about 35 miles offshore. The land together totals around 373,000 acres. There could be 300 to 450 turbines that can potentially generate 4,500 megawatts of electricity or enough to power 1.5 million California homes.

Since the Lake County Sheriff has announced his retirement, city staff have been instructed about how to appoint an interim sheriff. Sheriff Brian Martin ends his second term at the end of the year and has designated Capt. Chris Chwialkowski since there's no undersheriff, as his temporary replacement. Under state law, the highest ranking officer takes over as sheriff-coroner until the vacancy is filled. The Board of Supervisors will interview candidates and appoint a permanent replacement next month, and that person will serve until 2025. Sheriff Martin asked the board to move quickly so he can help his replacement transition, and they can attend a training next month too.

The Governor will be joining the outgoing Governor of Oregon to celebrate the nation's largest river restoration project. The US interior secretary and tribal leaders will also join in the recognition of the work to be done along the Klamath River. The plan was approved last month to take out four dams to begin the restoration of several hundred miles of habitat for fish and ecosystems.

Sheet1

PG&E warns of holiday scams. The energy company has put out the word they've been hearing about victims in Northern California and along the Central Coast. The company says tens of thousands of people say they received a call from someone who says the work at the utility company and demand money. They say it's more than twice as much as all of 2021. They say the scam has also lost customers over a million dollars in fraudulent payments.

Undergraduate students at University California campuses are reportedly concerned the strike by some academic workers could affect their grades. The strike is in its fourth week and could mean faculty withhold tens of thousands of grades by staffers who already got their deal ratified, but are sort of silently striking still, in solidarity with other workers. Some students need to get their grades to hit a certain grade point average to maintain federal financial aid. And others who plan to graduate this year or may want to apply to grad school. Those who won't give grades say they're protected against picking up work responsibilities of striking employees.

The yearly fire department competition to bring in blood is on. 19 fire departments in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties are taking part in the 17th annual Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge, a friendly competition with the winning department chosen after they bring in the most blood this month and next. The departments do community outreach to get other firefighters, friends, family and community members to donate, which is especially crucial during the holiday season. Generally speaking donations drop this month, and the last two weeks of the year are the lowest donation period all year round. The next blood drives are in Lakeport tomorrow, and next Wednesday at the South Lake County Fire Protection District.

More than fifty projects are being funded by the state for mental healthcare for children and adolescents. The Governor announced \$480.5 million for his Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health, grant funding for new facilities and the expansion of existing ones for children, youth, transition-age youth, and perinatal people with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Newsom says the whole system is getting an overhaul so youngsters in Calif. get the care and support they need and that it will be covered by Medi-Cal. The projects for more care focusing on community wellness/youth prevention centers, outpatient treatment for substance use disorders, school-linked health centers, and outpatient community mental health clinics.

12/08/22

Another lively Board of Supervisors meeting in Mendocino County. First thing was a request to limit public comment regarding items on the agenda related to cannabis after a fee schedule was approved for public records requests. They also heard from cannabis industry stakeholders about the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant manual. We heard from the caregiver's union where they talked about needing more money so they can hire and retain caregivers. The Public Health Officer reminded about flu and COVID vaccines, with the community at higher risk this week, than a week ago. He says the healthcare system is strained right now because of all of the respiratory illnesses.

2 people involved in a crash in Clearlake end up in the hospital. The driver, who just had minor injuries, was arrested for DUI, and his two passengers had major injuries after the driver lost control and crashed into a tree. Word is the passengers were not wearing seatbelts at the time.

Sheet1

Intro: The state's first-ever auction of offshore wind leases just brought in more than 757 million dollars in bids. The Department of the Interior announced the winning bids yesterday on five sites off Morro Bay and Humboldt County. David Chiu is San Francisco City Attorney and a former Assembly member who authored a bill to kickstart offshore wind.

:19 "When you walk over to the coast and feel the wind blowing on you 20 to 30 miles off the California coast from our Oregon border all the way down to Mexico, there is enough offshore wind to power the entire electrical grid: clean, green, 100% renewable, which is remarkable."

1

Tag: Chiu's one of a hundred local officials who gathered this week at the California Climate Emergency and Energy Security Summit, hosted by the California Energy Commission in Sacramento. In a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom, the group praised the state's efforts to support offshore wind, and in particular – the 45-million-dollar allocation made to expand California's ports.

Second Cut: Another speaker at the conference, Dr. Habib Dagher from the University of Maine, has invented the first floating wind turbine that can provide power to the grid. He said California needs a statewide plan to facilitate offshore wind while protecting the environment, local communities, the fisheries, and indigenous communities.

:08 "I think the U.S. has an opportunity to lead in the floating space. I think what we need to do is work together. We need to work together on permitting. Permitting slows things down more than anything else."

1

Tag: The Biden administration set a goal to build 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy capacity by 2030 and 15 gigawatts of floating offshore wind capacity by 2035.

The latest Public Health Officer in Lake County updating the Board of Supervisors on seasonal flu and COVID. Flu is on the rise statewide and Dr. Karl Sporer says it's the same for Lake County, and same for COVID-19. He noted there's a triple epidemic currently, that includes respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. But Sporer says hospitals are in ok shape for the moment. He said county health officials check in with hospitals every two weeks. There's been a 25% increase in hospitalizations related to the flu and 10-15% for COVID patients. Also at the meeting we heard Adventist Health will open an urgent care clinic the second week in January.

The state will start the new Feather Alert system soon. The governor signed the public notification system into law this fall, and it will begin next month. It's just like the Amber Alert or Silver Alert systems, but for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People alerts. Lake Co News reports the Sovereign Bodies Institute says only about 9% of the murders of Indigenous women in California have been solved. Washington State and Colorado have also recently enacted similar notification systems.

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors has a budget workshop where it's reportedly unearthed that the county's got a gaping budget hole. The workshop Tuesday had the county CEO admitting the budget gap for the fiscal year was estimated at \$6.1 million. That included the expansion of the new jail and staffing thereto, computer upgrades, the health plan deficit and lower cannabis tax revenues. The budget ad hoc committee includes Supervisors Glen McGourty and Ted Williams. Some of their ideas to save money were less county vehicles and deferred facilities maintenance, but without estimates as to how much that would save. Supervisors also considered having locals run local parks, workout new math for present and future pension payments. Discussions continue next week.

There's a free holiday concert happening at the Mendocino Presbyterian Church in Mendocino. The Redwood Community Chorus is paying a new piece of music written last year during COVID days. Unconditional Love was composed they say as a love letter to those we lost, the sacrifices made, and the triumphs made surviving the pandemic. And of course, to bring it all home, they will play special holiday songs too. Donations are being accepted and no tickets are needed. You must wear a mask inside the church. They will have some available at the church.

Sheet1

The first year for the Skunk Train to bring back their full holiday schedule. The Magical Christmas Train has started its first weekend runs and will be bolstering operations to 7 days/week starting Sunday, December 18th. The 2-hour route takes passengers to see, what they call, the world's tallest decorated Christmas Tree, at 222 feet tall. Those who delivered the tree say they've put in a request to the Guinness Book of World Records about the tree. The train leaves the Willits station, and a holiday-themed train is running out of Fort Bragg, to a brand new pavilion. They also offer a four-hour rail bike experience too through Noyo Canyon and Pudding Creek.

For reservations and more information visit

<https://www.skunktrain.com/magical-christmas-train/> or phone (707) 964-6371.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is considering higher fees for sewers in Middletown. At their meeting Tuesday the board also heard the annual crop report. For the sewer rates, the board heard from staffers on revenue, the cost of services and a rate analysis for all properties, except for Anderson Springs. There are 480 residential and 78 commercial accounts. Management says the price of operating has gone up with inflation and if they don't raise fees, they will go into debt. They're looking at a nearly 100% increase, starting in February, something noted as still below the regional average. As far as the crop report, Lake County's gross value was just over \$83,452,360, 11 percent higher than last year.

Lawmakers are considering home building on church, synagogue and mosque properties. The bill allowing construction in "God's backyard," would allow building in areas not normally zoned residential. State Senator Scott Wiener of San Francisco introduced the bill, the "Affordable Housing on Faith Lands Act" which he says would remove red tape for religious groups and nonprofit colleges who want to build affordable housing in a time where the housing market is tight. This bill would allow building in parking lots not being used by the religious institutions. It's Weiners 3rd attempt at the idea.

An environmental group is filing a lawsuit in hopes of stopping a logging operation approved for Neely Hill above the Russian River. The recently approved Silver Estates timber harvest plan means redwood and Douglas fir trees can be logged on over 220-acres of land near Guerneville and Monte Rio. The Guerneville Forest Coalition says Cal Fire and the logging plan don't meet the standards that had been set by the California Environmental Quality Act. The suit also says Cal Fire has not done enough to assess what the impact of the project could be on flood-prone areas and wildlife. The logging zone is home to the 340-foot-tall and about two-thousand-year-old Clar Tree, which some believe 12/09/22 is the tallest tree on private property in the world.

Congressman Jared Huffman says he voted on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2023 which had money for ocean and Great Lake waters. He says the bill will address climate change because it has protections for oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. The Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) also passed with protections for the North Coast. He says the bill will work to prevent illegal fishing and forced labor, eliminate shark fin sales in the country, enhance marine mammal conservation, research, and stranding response, study stormwater impacts on salmon and restore resilient coral reefs with a reauthorized and updated Coral Reef Conservation Act related to climate change, ecosystem loss, disease outbreaks, and other threats.

Sheet1

US Senator Alex Padilla says his bill to strengthen FEMA's wildfire preparedness and response efforts known as the FIRE Act unanimously passed and heads to the President for signature. The FIRE Act was also led by Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) in the House. It updates the Stafford Act from which FEMA is governed and was written with hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods in mind. Now it will include response to wildfires so FEMA can pre-deploy assets during times of highest wildfire risk, as Cal Fire has been doing. The bill also improves counseling and case management services specifically for disadvantaged communities.

Fort Bragg is being recognized for wave energy. It's being noticed across the state for working towards a Blue Economy, a way to get money from the ocean while not taking resources away or causing unnecessary environmental harm. A Canadian company working globally with wave energy makes freshwater and found Fort Bragg as a partner for them to test their desalination device. The City Council approved the company Oneka and went to the state to get a \$1.5 million grant. The company says since Fort Bragg has big ocean waves all year round, which is prime real-estate for their technology. The city is also looking at using solar and wave energy, and environmentally friendlier reservoirs.

Due to the wet weather, the State Route between Navarro and Route 1 is closed because of flooding on the Navarro River. It's not unusual this time of year as winter rains come in and the river swells. Caltrans announced yesterday they'd close the road until the waters receded, which could be Sunday. Each year at this time, the river's mouth gets filled and moves out and floods the road until the sandbar is breached and the road is re-opened. The river forecast is that it should crest early Sunday morning, but the road won't be re-opened until Caltrans decides and will announce that.

Deja Vu in Calif. A surge of COVID could be around the same case load as we had last winter when the omicron strain wreaked havoc nationwide. The latest case numbers per day went up to 78-hundred, nearly twice the amount we saw a week ago. There's also been a slew of cases in hospitals too, up 150-percent over last month. State officials say they're concerned as many regions are back in the high-level zone. Like in Los Angeles County, which is reportedly very close to reinstating mask mandates for indoor spaces.

A new bill in the Legislature, that, if it passes, would cap how much landlords can charge for security deposits. The draft says it should only be one month. The Legislator who's behind the bill says if it passes, it will have a huge impact on housing affordability for families. It's currently cool to charge two months, but three if the unit is furnished. The state has the nation's second-highest overall rent price, with the average landing at about 16-hundred dollars for a one bedroom.

History made in Windsor with the election of their first Latina woman as mayor. Rosa Reynoza was elected to the council in May of 2021 and has now risen to the top spot and sworn in Wednesday night. Before being elected, she had lost three attempts to get a seat on the council. And Tanya Potter was also sworn in as Windsor's District Four town councilwoman. The former Mayor Sam Salmon is now vice mayor and will represent District Two.

Sheet1

It's happening again, a delay in the start to the commercial Dungeness crab season in California, as a protection for humpback whales. Once again, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife reported commercial crabbing is on hold until at least Dec. 30th, with them revisiting the situation around the 22nd of the month. This is the third delay this season. Things usually get started on Nov. 15th for the waters between the Mendocino County line and the border with Mexico. It's considered a popular dish for the holidays in Calif. But the conservation group Oceana says it was a smart choice as whales getting entangled in fishing gear has become the new normal. Humpbacks can drag the ropes they get caught in from heavy commercial traps, for months, and become injured, starved or so exhausted that they can drown.

Due to so many fentanyl overdoses at schools, they may soon be required to have Narcan on hand, an anti-dote to an overdose of opioids. The Legislature is looking at proposing the nasal spray be kept on public school campuses as a requirement as they come up with ways to get information out about fentanyl on K12 campuses. The drug can kill and can be taken without knowledge as its laced into other drugs like oxycodone and Adderall. At least seven teenagers had od'd on the drug in LA County after taking pills, including a 15-year-old girl who died in September. An Assembly Bill introduced this week would mandate schools in California have at least two doses of emergency naloxone or Narcan doses on campus in case of an overdose.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has approved an agreement to give COVID Stimulus payments to county employees. In the "side letter agreement" the rest of the unions with expired contracts, which includes the Service Employees International, have all agreed to get a one-time only payment from the American Rescue Act. It'll be \$3,000 for full-timers and \$1,500 for part-timers. At the same time they are continuing to negotiate new deals with the union which may be picked back up next week. Also at the meeting this week, the Board heard about a budget deficit and discussed a 3% reduction across all departments because of lower cannabis revenue and lower sales tax revenues.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office has announced the county has set up Test-to-Treat locations with flu and COVID tests. Anyone testing positive can also be treated by an on-site doctor. Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren says there's been high rates of flu and other respiratory viruses this fall compared to the last 2
12/12/22 years, so to have easy access to testing and

treatments can help decrease the stress in emergency rooms and medical offices. The Test-to-treat sites will only give medication for COVID positive cases. The locations are at the Ukiah Fairgrounds and Fort Bragg Veteran's Memorial Building. For more info, visit the county public health website, or call them.

A dangerous situation at the Heavenly Mountain Resort in South Lake Tahoe. The ski resort was slammed with extremely high winds Saturday which made riding on ski lift chairs treacherous to say the least. The resort put a wind hold on the lifts as it hit 100 mph there. They posted a video showing the lift chairs swinging wildly in the wind and shows someone at the top of the Dipper Express Lift. Caltrans was informing people to also stay off the roads in the area. More rain and snow is expected so Caltrans crews are working 24 hours a day to remove snow from highways.

Sheet1

\$1 billion is being distributed across the state for new walking and biking projects for disadvantaged communities including in Mendocino County. There are 93 projects across the state to repair and improve transportation infrastructure. The Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Plan is getting almost \$8 million dollars. There's also another \$21M for improvements over the Eel River on a bridge on Route 162 near Longvale, \$6M for roadway and culvert repairs from south of Old Sherwood Road to north of Piercy along U.S. 101 in Mendocino County, nearly \$4M for guardrail, sign, fence, embankment and drainage repairs along U.S. 101 south of Willits and around \$2.7M for median barrier and retaining wall construction and roadway improvements near Willits from Black Bart Road to Waterplant/Grider Road along U.S. 101.

After reports of a robbery in Boonville, Deputies are on the lookout for a man with a handgun. The Mi Esperanza Market reported approx. \$20,000 was stolen in the armed robbery this weekend. The California Highway Patrol and California State Parks also came to the scene and officers canvassed the area. The info they received was a man in a mask came in and held up the business while a woman was working alone. She said he had a gun and waved to her to open the cash drawer, took the money and took off. Investigators say they do have leads, but are not releasing any other information.

After drenching rains closed Highway 128, Caltrans has reopened it after the sandbar finally breached. Water pours into the mouth of the Navarro, which some residents reported seeing the river finally receding. Barriers were erected on Highway 128 at the Navarro Bridge last week, as the roadway was inundated, and the river was expected to crest. There were sparse cars at the beach, but the parking area was reported as opened after heavy rain and winds took trees down and blocked roads.

The California Congressional delegation is requesting tax relief for wildfire victims... their constituents. Congressmen Mike Thompson and Doug LaMalfa, along with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla led the delegation as they asked for the tax relief in the end of the year legislative package. Their letter says survivors were getting payments in 2020 from PG&E for damaged or destroyed properties, but there are no clear provisions saying survivors shouldn't be taxed when they get their "settlement award". They go on to say the survivors should not have to pay taxes on the awards after losing their homes, and instead should receive the full amount of the award. They also say the victims shouldn't have to pay lawyers they didn't hire.

There's a new mayor and a couple of new city council members in Ukiah. The Vice-Mayor Josefina Dueñas was next in line for mayor, but instead the City Council unanimously voted for Mari Rodin to be the new mayor, leaving Dueñas as vice-mayor. The former mayor, Juan Orozco made the motion, and reportedly surprised Dueñas who asked why she didn't get Orozco's support. He said he thought the mayor seat should be filled by someone who's already been mayor, and that she could be mayor in the future. Orozco told reporters he and others were not happy with Duenas performance at previous meetings, like being late, was not knowledgeable on procedure and more.

Sheet1

A couple of teenagers have been arrested after reports of a stolen car in Ukiah. Police say the 13- and 14-year-old-boys were followed by detectives in an unmarked car after they got a hit on the license plate reading camera system called FLOCK. The car, stolen from Fort Bragg, went into the drive-thru of a Starbucks, then marked patrol cars picked the pair back up and followed. They stopped the kids in the parking lot and say they both complied and were taken into custody without incident. Cops say a black, Glock style pistol was found in the glove compartment, but it had no serial number, so it's considered a ghost gun. It was also loaded with ammo. The teens were taken to Mendocino County Juvenile Hall and booked for possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of a firearm.

A wet weather trail closure has been reported on the Upper Lake Ranger District. The closure began yesterday morning until there's no rain for 2 days straight at the Howard Mill rain gauge. This means there are no motor vehicles allowed on National Forest System trails in the Upper Lake Ranger District on the Mendocino National Forest. The temporary wet weather trail closures go into effect if there's at least two inches of rain in a 24-hour period or when the earth is saturated. It's to protect against soil loss, impacts on water quality, damage to trail tread and puts public safety at risk. There are some caveats of course, like Federal, State, or local officers, or members of organized rescues or fire-fighting forces can be on the forest if they're performing an official duty.

A rare sighting by an urchin diver in Mendocino County... Grant Downie says he was harvesting red urchin when he saw sunflower sea star. It's not good news though, as the star is known as a predator of sea urchins in North America. The last sighting was apparently about six years ago. In 2013, there was sea star wasting disease which killed off many of them. It's very rare to spot one of the creatures from Mexico to Washington. Downie, the recently appointed Noyo Harbor commissioner said it was a healthy looking star, and took several photos of it.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is busily trying to plug the 6-million-dollar budget deficit. At their meeting tomorrow the board will consider a couple of contracts with union members who work in the county. The largest employee union is getting a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment, the health plan which apparently caused more than half the budget hole is being changed to a plan with an increase in how much an employee pays, and the county's still waiting to get about \$9 million dollars in COVID relief money promised by FEMA. Last week when Assemblyman Wood was at the meeting, the board asked for help from the state. The Board also found out last week the new jail is going to be about \$2.5 million a year for staff and benefits. Meanwhile, supervisors are scrambling to come up with ways to close the budget gap and are expected to have a budget workshop at tomorrow's meeting.

An arrest has been made after a baseball bat attack in Willits, but that's not it. Police say a man was seriously injured after being hit in the head with a bat at a home, but at the time, they had no motive. The next day police reported arresting Christopher Roy Krch for felony assault with a deadly weapon and battery with serious injury, but he was released the day after that, and denied he was involved. Krch said the day before somebody took his phone, ID and bank cards off a pool table at a bar in Willits. He asked the bar for surveillance footage and it proved his story. Krch apparently went to the suspect's home and says things escalated and became physical. The man in the altercation with Krch called police. The DA has now requested follow up and police say the case is still open.

Someone in Redwood Valley reported seeing a UFO. The National UFO Reporting Center got a report at the beginning of October, that someone in an RV saw a large object in the sky through a window in the roof of their vehicle. Mendo Fever reports the reporting party said they saw a large X lighting up the sky and slowly flashing. Another person nearby also apparently saw the object 12/13/22 too. The news site says the person who saw it remains anonymous.

A woman from Clearlake Oaks found guilty of killing her ex-boyfriend is going to prison for 50 years. 58-year-old Tammy Sue Grogan-Robinson was convicted last month of the shooting death of 56-year-old Charles Vernon McClelland of Rohnert Park. You may recall at the time, Grogan-Robinson made up an elaborate story about her ex's death, and a sex assault. The judge sentenced her to 25 years to life for first-degree murder, and another 25-years-to-life for an enhancement for the use of a firearm for the July murder.

A man killed last week in a house fire near Guerneville has been identified. 68-year-old Walter Moore died last Wednesday in the fire about five miles out of the town. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office reports the home was in an isolated area off dirt roads and a large tree blocked the way in. The fire burned almost an hour before firefighters could gain access. The home was totally destroyed, and the victim's body was found during mop up of the fire, which remains under investigation.

Some tobacco companies took California's recent ban on flavored products all the way to the Supreme Court. But the Supremes sided with voters in California. R.J. Reynolds and others were trying to get the high court to stop the ban before it officially starts Dec. 21st. Lawmakers had first passed the ban two years ago, but it stalled as tobacco companies got petitions signed and got the matter onto the ballot, which backfired. Nearly two-thirds of voters said they didn't want flavored tobacco, vape juice or menthol cigarettes in Calif. So the tobacco companies filed a lawsuit the day after the election. The lower courts tossed it and they appealed all the way up.

Surface water contamination is being tied to cannabis grows. A new study by the Water Quality Research Journal by Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations ecologists and others say after six years of monitoring illegal grows, they found illegal and banned pesticides in water, in areas below the grows. As you probably know, surface water in national forests is critical habitat for various species, and supposedly provides clean water to rural communities, agriculture, municipalities and Indigenous tribes. Samples were taken at four sites on national forests in Calif.

Sheet1

Candle lighting ceremonies are planned in memory of those lost before us. The candle-lighting in Lakeport today and Lower Lake Thursday put on by Hospice Services of Lake County. Today at Hospice Services Bereavement Center in Lakeport at 5 p.m. with a special tribute to veterans by the Lake County Honor Guard and a reading of poetry. Then at the Lower Lake event on Thursday will be a musical performance and message of remembrance presented by Adventist Health and another poetry reading. That event at the Lower Lake Historical School House Museum at 6:30pm.

For more information, call the Hospice Services of Lake County office at (707) 263-6222 or visit the agency's website, www.lakecountyhospice.org.

A college professor at Chico State reportedly told someone he worked with he had purchased a weapon and ammo and talked up mass school shootings. The shocking story comes out during a Zoom meeting with others on campus yesterday. A biology teacher/lecturer told over 600 students and faculty members that she felt threatened and said she was "truly terrified" of the other professor. The Chico State President, who was on the call said the story would be investigated. The accused is a tenured professor who's also accused of sexual relations with a grad student he was supervising. While being investigated for that, he allegedly made the shooting threat. He was suspended Friday.

Some large gifts have been handed out by the Lake County Wine Alliance this holiday season. Lake Co News reports dozens of local nonprofits and schools were the recipients last night at the yearly distribution of proceeds from the September Wine Auction. The event was at the Bell Haven Resort, Flower Farm and Event Pavilion in Kelseyville. Record donations were also received at the auction which in turn will help almost 30 nonprofits and all five county high schools. The Wine Auction has distributed over two million dollars since the auctions began. Last year they gave out a record \$250,000, but this year was even more historical, with the biggest gifting yet, \$300,000.

As the lockdowns related to the pandemic hit, more of us were dining outside. Now several restaurants in the North Bay will be keeping their outdoor seating in place. Due to state public health restrictions on indoor dining, "parklets" or wooden, open-air structures for outdoor dining popped up all over the country. A new report says North Bay cities from Sausalito to Petaluma and Napa are looking more and more like European towns, where parklet like settings are the norm. Some of the towns and cities will keep the parklets and charge a yearly fee to the establishments. In Santa Rosa for example, city leaders said the restaurant industry's business margins weren't so great so the parklets opened a whole new world for them.

Sheet1

Just less than a year later, the Mendocino County Director of Public Health is out. In January Anne Molgaard was appointed to the position, and just one month less than what would have been her one-year anniversary in the position, she retired. The county CEO sent a note off to Public Health staffers saying there's a change in leadership. It also noted if Molgaard should come into the offices again, she should be treated as any other member of the public, and that confidential county business should not be shared with her. Mendo Fever reports being told that was standard language when someone departs a county position. And supervisors interviewed by the news site said only nice things about 12/14/23 Molgaard who had a lengthy government and nonprofit career.

A man suspected of an armed robbery at a market in Bonnaville has been caught in New York. Deputies say they got a call Friday afternoon to the Mi Esperanza Market after someone pulled a gun, demanded money, and took off. Deputies said it was in the neighborhood of \$20,000. Matias Tomas Vietto was a person of interest in the case. He apparently told friends he was going back to Argentina. Deputies found he had booked an international flight out of New York to Argentina Monday. New York cops picked him up where he's being held until he can be extradited back to Mendocino County.

After demands for doctors' notes at public schools for sick or infected employees or students, the Mendocino County Public Health Dept. has announced they're allowing a return to a signed self-attestation form, instead of a note from a doctor. This is not only for COVID, but also for the flu or other viral illnesses. Health Officer, Dr. Andy Coren says most people will recover at home from flu or COVID without an issue, and recommends schools and workplaces accept a self-attestation form when people are ready to return to work or school. It basically has a checklist on it for symptoms to monitor and when is the appropriate amount of time to wait to return to work or school. Coren reminds if you have shortness of breath, are dehydrated (from vomiting/diarrhea) or have any change of mental status to seek medical attention.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors reports approving an agreement with unions to raise the minimum wage for County employees to \$17.42. Due to inflation, the County says it hopes the measure will alleviate some of the burden on staff during these difficult times. Some of the positions that will be affected are assistant positions, all the way up to officers, secretaries, specialists in various departments and others. The wage increase will go up the first pay period of January.

Supervisor John Hashak has written a letter to the community after the latest Board of Supervisors meeting. Hashak summarized the year and also notes looking forward to the New Year. He commented on the retirement of former CEO Carmel Angelo and the new CEO Darcie Antle. The Board approved a new Strategic Plan which is sort of a roadmap for the county to follow for the next 5 years. Hashak commented on the difficulties Supervisors have been dealing with in regard to the budget. He says he's committed to creating a more efficient, effective fiscal department. He also noted the positives in the budget, like closing deals with most of the bargaining units, getting PG&E wildfire settlement money, Measure B Funds coming in for the Crisis Residential Treatment Center and the creation of a water agency.

A wood products company in Oregon with a lumber mill in Northern CA has settled agreements related to a wildfire in Sept. Roseburg Forest Products Co. reports agreeing to deals with a handful of law firms who are handling most of the claims against the company for property losses, personal injuries and wrongful death claims related to the Sept. 2nd Mill Fire. The company didn't release any monetary amounts they're paying out. The fire killed two people after it ripped through the town of Weed in Siskiyou County. It burned 3,935 acres and destroyed over 115 buildings, mostly homes, and damaged dozens more. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but apparently a wooden warehouse Roseburg owns stored hot ash in it. There were 1,000 claims filed connected to the fire.

A group of students in Anderson Valley working hard for their fellow community members, collecting hundreds of pounds of food for the food bank. The Superintendent Louise Simson says all of the junior high and high school classes in Boonville have been competing to see who can bring in the most items for the food bank. The kids also bag up the items they get and distribute them. The kids have collected a total of 959 pounds so far. The competition ends this week when kids get ice cream party and find out who won the competition.

The State of California is getting hundreds of millions of dollars after a multi-state settlement related to the opioid crisis. The settlement of \$5.7 billion from Walgreens after a slew of cases against the pharmacy chain. Calif. is up for \$500 million dollars to "resolve allegations" the company "failed to appropriately oversee the dispensing of opioids at its pharmacies". Both Walgreens and CVS Health agreed to pay about \$5 billion each last month related to thousands of lawsuits where state and local governments claimed the companies were filling prescriptions which were actually inappropriate. The money received is supposed to be used to address the opioid addiction epidemic and provide treatment and recovery services.

There are hundreds of laws taking effect in Calif. this New Year. One of them, SB 107 will turn Calif. into a sanctuary state for transgender health. Reproductive laws, including the protection of medical records with out-of-state patients regarding abortion restrictions will also take effect. And the minimum wage is expected to go up to 15-dollars-and-50-cents. And law enforcement agencies won't be able to use DNA collected in rape kits to investigate an unrelated crime.

The deadline for California's COVID sick pay is getting closer as cases surge once again. The Governor has extended the mandate until the end of this month, but officials recommend starting a claim before it expires. Companies with at least 26 employees are required to provide up to 80 hours of extra paid sick leave for those who can't work because of COVID, which is separate from the state's mandatory sick time.

California's on track to ring in the new year with gas prices under four-bucks a gallon. Tracking site GasBuddy says it's expected prices will come down by the end of the month because there's not a lot that can get in the way of falling prices. An expert with the site who tracks prices says prices in Calif. could be in the three-50 range by early next year. Triple-A currently shows the average at four-47/gallon of regular. That's down 19 cents from last week and nearly a dollar since last month.

The Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians' have a plan to flip the Lucerne Hotel into a homeless housing facility. The idea is to use a multimillion-dollar state grant the tribe says it got after partnering with the Lake County Office of Education on the project, calling the Office of Education its "primary partner". But the superintendent of schools says this isn't true, and they knew nothing about the grant or the project. Lake County News reports the tribe got about \$5 million dollars and the state agency that was providing the grant says they still plan to provide the funds. Escrow is supposed to close the end of the month. Apparently, according to the news site, many other stakeholders were unaware of the Tribe's plans for the hotel, and that the hotel is not zoned for the use the tribe intended.

The current owner of the Lucerne Hotel is reportedly trying to stop the sale of the hotel so it can be used as a homeless project. Lake County News reports the Lucerne Area Town Hall was poised to consider the plan at their meeting tomorrow night. The tribal administrator was invited to speak at the Lucerne Area Town Hall about the purchase of the hotel with the \$5.2 million grant for homeless youth housing. Right now, the Earthways Foundation owns the building on behalf of New Paradigm College, which closed its doors during the first part of the pandemic. But the Town Hall has now sent an email around canceling the meeting agenda related to the Hotel building.

After a man is arrested for multiple DUI charges after an accident in July which ended with people in the hospital, he was a no-show in court. 39-year-old Stephen Robert Williams didn't show up for his preliminary hearing. His lawyer says the Pacifica man was sick and he didn't know ahead of time. The court found there was no good cause for the non-appearance. There was a bench warrant issued for his arrest for Failure to Appear for \$70,000. There was another court date his lawyer came without him and there was back and forth between counsel on getting certain documents into the case record.

The West Center says they've chosen a dozen wannabe business owners for their "Startup Mendocino" accelerator program for 2023. The West Business Development Center leads the free program for entrepreneurs who have ideas for businesses with a path to make their dream a reality. They offer intensive training program, which begins this year on January 12th. It goes all the way out to the first week of June. Those participating will learn about business and financial planning, successful branding and marketing, technology and best practices for e-commerce, time management, and how to pitch your business to others. Some of the local sponsors making the program a reality include: Redwood Credit Union, the County of Mendocino, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Tri Counties Bank, Charles D. "Charlie" Kelly, LPL Financial LLC, and 12/15/23 Umpqua Bank.

The Mendocino County Tourism Commission at the latest Board of Supervisors meeting where they broached a higher tax rate could be implemented. The Commission along with Civitas Advisors said they thought the Business Improvement District, should double its assessment for lodging and campgrounds. They also asked for an option to be considered for a 1% assessment on "tourist facing" businesses, which, along with local governments would need to give the thumbs up to such a plan. The planned 2% assessment is industry standard in northern California and can save the county money marketing itself.

Sheet1

PG&E has applied for an eagle nest removal under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Fish & Wildlife Service also prepared an Environmental Assessment about potential impacts of removing the nest, which said there would be No Significant Impact. The Service is asking for public comment for two weeks which started yesterday. They're also having a public meeting on the matter next Tuesday. The removal of the nest is because it's on a dying tree on private property near an above-ground electric distribution line for just one customer north of the Van Arsdale Reservoir in Mendocino County and there are two bald eagles who nest there.

Staff from Lake County along with researchers from Michigan State University and the University of Vermont working together on current water quality trends in Clear Lake, and how they are impacted by wildfires and climate change, say it's climate change causing more problems for water quality, than wildfires. They evaluated water quality after three major wildfire years in the Clear Lake Basin, with the report published in the Peer-Reviewed Ecology Journal, *Ecosphere*, entitled, "Turning up the Heat: Long-term water quality responses to wildfires and climate change in a hypereutrophic lake". The report came after calls from the public who were concerned about the lake's quality. The team found higher phosphorus concentrations were associated with hot and dry weather, not rain, alone, or rain after wildfires, reporting that climate change may be a greater threat to Clear Lake water quality than wildfires.

As we head into another potentially severely dry year, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California declared a drought emergency. The company is asking all regional water agencies to immediately reduce their use of all imported supplies. This comes less than a year after they declared a similar emergency for millions of residents who depend on the State Water Project, a slew of reservoirs, canals and dams in Northern California. Residents who rely on the other major supply — the Colorado River — were not included in that emergency, but experts say conditions on the Colorado "are growing increasingly dire" too. Here in Calif., even though we've had a bunch of rain, Oroville, which is one of California's largest reservoirs, is only 59% of capacity as of this past Monday.

Tens of thousands of Californians could be eligible for COVID-related unemployment benefits. The benefits did end several months ago, but a new report says up to 100,000 Californians could still get unemployment benefits retroactively due to changes in federal guidelines. It relates to folks unemployed in 2020 and 2021 who did not meet initial eligibility requirements and may now receive hundreds of dollars in weekly benefits. This is for those who refused to work because their employer had violated COVID-19 safety standards, school employees whose usual work schedule was affected by COVID-19 and others who were laid off or had their reduced as a direct result of COVID.

After a decade and a half of service a member of the Lake County Board of Education is leaving. Dr. David Browning left his District 4 seat after 16 years. Nancy Hudson a retired administrative assistant in the Education Dept. was elected in his place. There are five seats just like the Lake County Board of Supervisors. The other members were all re-elected to their seats, and one was not up for re-election. The oath of office was administered to Hudson and goodbyes and accolades were made to Dr. Browning.

Sheet1

During off hours the Lake County Board of Supervisors apparently tried canceling the Lucerne Area Town Hall meeting due to an agenda item. As we reported yesterday the Scotts Valley Pomos are trying to buy the Lucerne Hotel to use as a homeless shelter. Board Chair Eddie Crandell, whose district the hotel is in, brought the action forward, which Lake Co News reports was in direct violation of the town hall's recently updated bylaws, approved by the Board of Supervisors. It says all meeting dates and locations are up to the chair. The chair sent out the town hall agenda on Monday asking the Board of Supervisors to stop the Lucerne Hotel purchase by the Pomos. There's also been some back and forth about whether the meeting can even take place at the hotel, where the town hall has been regularly meeting. But the Town Hall tells the news site they intend to move forward with the meeting.

Someone brought COVID to the last Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting. An email went out yesterday saying there had been an exposure at the meeting Tuesday. The email says the county was informed by an individual who had been in Board Chambers for the retirement proclamation for the Sheriff and others that they had been diagnosed with COVID-19. It goes on to say anyone there between 10:45 AM to 1:30 PM was in close contact with this person. The chambers were packed to the brim with members of the public and county employees. The county's asking any employee to wear masks if they were there for the next ten days and test every few days. And if they become symptomatic to test and isolate.

Final and certified results of the Mendocino County election have been announced. And in Fort Bragg, there was something of a surprise... The Daily Journal reports the early results had Tess Albin-Smith way behind Michelle Roberts, but after all of the votes were tallied for three open seats, Albin-Smith ended up ahead of Roberts. It came out like this Jason Godeke got 26% of the vote, then it was Marcia Rafanan with 16%, Albin-Smith with 12% was in third, just a tick ahead of Roberts who had 11.99% of the votes. And it should be noted, Albin-Smith had campaigned for her own seat as a write-in candidate because of some sort of ballot glitch.

A California Highway Patrol commander has been found shot to death in Tennessee a couple months after her husband also turned up dead after missing. Julie Harding was a commander for the Yuba-Sutter area. She was being investigated for a possible connection to her husband Michael Harding's death. She had also been arrested on suspicion of breaking into a home in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and taking a dog that was her husband's. Turns out that was his girlfriend's home. She says Harding had been stalking and harassing her. The local Sheriff says they don't know yet if Harding's death was by suicide or murder.

The Sheriff of Tehama County says they won't be patrolling during daytime hours. Sheriff Dave Hencratt is actually leaving his position next month. As we reported last month, Hencratt announced due to a "catastrophic staffing shortage" deputies would no longer patrol during the day". In a recent news story on the matter locals who were interviewed said they weren't getting much help from the Sheriff's office anyway. But the story goes on to say, it's not new in the country. Many law enforcement agencies nationwide say they've been challenged to find enough qualified new recruits in smaller, rural areas. Plus they don't pay well enough. Meanwhile Hencratt says local police departments were picking off his 12/16/23 officers and new recruits left quick.

There's money if you need it from Cal Fire for Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health projects. \$120 million dollars has been made available for local projects near communities that are at higher risk and need to protect people and structures. The applications are being accepted now for hazardous fuels reduction work, wildfire prevention planning and wildfire prevention education, emphasizing improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There's also \$120 million more for landscape scale forest restoration projects. Those projects include forest fuels reduction, fire reintroduction, reforestation, and utilization of forest biomass. Another \$50 million is for post fire reforestation and restoration and yet \$19 million more is on hand for Tribal Wildfire Resilience planning and implementation projects.

Tree trimming is scheduled around the Ukiah Courthouse. Weather permitting the work is set for trimming the magnolia tree in front of the Courthouse tomorrow. An arborist reported the tree had severe cracking on its base and should be trimmed because it weighs so much. The County will be monitoring the work and says they will try to minimize further deterioration of the tree. Until now the County's been watering and measuring the tree and watching for any more damage to the tree or cracking. They ask residents to steer clear of the area for safety reasons.

DUI patrols are being conducted in Clear Lake. The checkpoint tomorrow will also be looking for folks driving without a license. The CHP says it's to make sure people are driving safely and say their sobriety/driver license checkpoints are an effective tool and send a message to drivers not to drive and mix alcohol or drugs, or drive when unlicensed. If you're caught, your vehicle will be towed away. There is no location noted.

Ukiah Unified is moving forward with charging Developer Fees once again. After a Justification Study, the decision to start charging developers in case they're building nearby, to protect from impacts to school facilities. The last study was almost 9 years ago. At that time the school board decided to stop collecting the fees, but it was supposed to be temporary. Then last year they started to rethink that. A consulting company has reportedly come up with various drafts of the study. There were also several public meetings on the matter, 2 in August, one in September and another last month. They've decided to start charging for the fees again in February, 60 days after they adopted the resolution.

A man connected to a marijuana robbery 5 years ago in Mendocino County is being tried in federal court. In December of 2017, it's alleged a pair of men said they were ATF agents and stopped a former Texas undercover cop near Frog Woman Rock, robbing him of a large quantity of cannabis. One of the men, a former Rohnert Park police officer, Joseph Huffaker, now faces 90 years behind bars for continuing to say he's not guilty. The victim, Zeke Flatten, says he knew the men were not real ATF agents, and he complied, but remembered their license plate was non-exempt and the suspects might be real-life cops. One of the men has already pleaded guilty to tax evasion, making a false report and conspiracy to commit extortion under the color of law. But Huffaker says he's not guilty.

After a man in Mendocino County court pleaded guilty to sexual assault charges, he's getting some prison time. William Larry Hill, or 'Willy' had been charged with sexually violent crimes in May of 2021. And the Advocate reports he has a history of violent crimes, having set fire to Chapel by the Sea in Fort Bragg in 2019, an old funeral home, gutting it. This week Willy accepted a plea deal admitting felony attempted sexual penetration with a foreign object and assault with intent to commit rape and got three years in state prison. He also has to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. The former CAL FIRE firefighter was charged with victimizing a woman and almost 3 weeks after making bail, he was found with weapons and ammo and sent to jail, where he sat for months.

Thinking about getting solar panels. You're going to get less from rebates after California regulators voted to lower how much utility companies have to pay homeowners with rooftop solar panels. The California Public Utilities Commission decided the payments currently being made to homeowners as part of the net metering program was excessively generous and was no longer needed to encourage folks to use solar panels. The proposal was quickly adopted this week so that compensation for energy sent to the state grid from rooftop panels is reduced by as much as 75% starting in April.

California could be peaking in its latest surge of COVID cases. Ahead of the really cold months of winter where folks congregate indoors, especially for the holidays, the state reports coronavirus cases and hospitalizations look to be slowing down. The State Public Health Dept says they're still feeling cautious as holidays approach, especially with the other respiratory viruses we've been seeing, including the flu and RSV. In the agency's weekly update, they said the COVID daily case rate was about 21.6 per 100,000 residents, up 7% compared to last week, but the testing positivity rate was down about a half point from 11.5% last week to 11.1% this week. Currently the two variants of concern are called BQ.1 and BQ.1.1.

Sheet1

Lake County Supervisors have taken a look at the renewal of their Tourism Improvement District and the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention grant. It was a busy week ahead of the end of the year for the Supes. The discussion around the Tourism Improvement District was that there's still a year for the current contract, but since it could take some time to renew, it was started early. Their goal is to get more people to visit the county. So far, they've grown their social media following, built a new website and advertised with various billboards. The county is looking at a 2.5% assessment which is just under \$390,000. And the discussion about the homeless grant included talk of the unexpected closure of the last homeless shelter, which apparently was not the end of the discussion, as they intend to pick it up next week.

They've chosen a new superintendent for the Kelseyville Unified School District (KVUSD). The Board of Trustees all voted for unanimously voted for Dr. Nicki Thomas to take over after Dr. David McQueen retired. Dr. Thomas is a native of Lake County and has worked in the district for nearly a decade. She's been serving as the assistant superintendent until now. She has been a school counselor and reading specialist, middle school administrator and elementary school principal too. She will start in her new role next July as Dr. McQueen will work until the end of the school year.

Congressman Jared Huffman is one of more than 2 dozen lawmakers who've sent a letter to the USDA Secretary to get immediate aid to struggling dairy and poultry farmers. 27 Congressional members sent the letter to Secy Vilsack saying due to inflation, the war in Ukraine, a short supply of grain, the drought and international trade issues, the price of feed for livestock has gone up too high to be afforded. And they go on to say, it's creating a challenge for farmers to keep their animals fed, calling the situation "dire", and requires immediate attention. Huffman's office says they've heard from several dairy producers on the North Coast urging him to do something

Old growth sequoia trees are dying at an alarming rate in California, so land managers across the Sierras are mounting an emergency response. Many of the biggest, oldest trees on earth have fallen victim to mega-fires, bark beetle infestation and drought, all exacerbated by climate change. Jessica Morse with the California Natural Resources Agency says multi-tree die-offs are rare among sequoias – with only about 2 dozen lost between the ice age and 2015 – but now 12/19/23 more than 10-thousand old-growth trees have died since 2020.

:16 "This has been an all-hands-on-deck moment where we have state federal, local, tribal and nonprofit partners coming together to really address the sequoia crisis with urgency. You know, we've lost nearly 20% of the monarch sequoias in just two years."

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This year, the California Giant Sequoia Land Coalition has cleared dead wood and burned piles from more than 42-hundred acres with about another 22-thousand acres to go. Sequoia groves range from Lake Tahoe down to Sequoia National Park.

Second Cut: Teresa Benson is forest supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. She says the work will ensure that the groves can be more resilient to fire in the future.

:15 "That work on the ground will result in fires actually having a more beneficial effect versus the high-severity fire effects that we've seen from the massive fire events that have

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been occurring in California."

Third Cut: Clay Jordan is superintendent at Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. He says the coalition is working with U-C Berkeley and others to measure the effects of fire to inform the work going forward.

:11 "We are conducting research and then sharing that information among all the land stewards so that we can make science-driven decisions to protect the resource."

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Tag: The coalition has already started planting 200-thousand seedlings, including 25-thousand baby giant sequoia, which will grow into the monarch trees of the next century.

In front of the Ukiah Courthouse some work has been done on an ancient Magnolia Tree. An arborist saw cracking on the base of the tree from weight, so the County of Mendocino agreed to bring out a tree-trimming crew who took some of the weight off with a crown trim. Mendo Fever reports a post on the matter on social media brought out a positive community response to do what was needed to save the tree, which along with another have been in town since the late 1800s. The news site reminds the county continues to work with arborists and others to keep the trees alive. Back in 1925 the trees were used as the town's Christmas trees and citizens decorated them for the holiday.

It may finally be over... the University of California has reportedly reached an agreement with tens of thousands of graduate student teaching assistants and more academic workers after weeks of striking. 36,000 staffers are poised to get salary hikes and richer benefits, but the workers still need to ratify the vote. Those at the bargaining table say some of the workers could be getting up to 66% more pay over the next two years. There are also better benefits for parent workers, better rights for international workers, protections against bullying and harassment, improvements to accessibility, workplace protections, and sustainable transit benefits. The president of the University of CA says it will place the workers among the "best supported in public higher education". Workers were arguing it was hard to live in bigger cities where housing was way more expensive.

As the Lake County Board of Supervisors prepares to discuss who might be the next Sheriff, they're also giving themselves a raise at their next meeting. The Sheriff Brian Martin is retiring and someone needs to fill his shoes until the next election. Tomorrow morning the Board will interview two applicants who could fill the job from next month until January of 2025. The two are, the Lake County Probation head, Rob Howe, and Lt. Luke Bingham. Around lunchtime the Supervisors will discuss the two candidates. Then after that they'll discuss amending the county code to get themselves a 28% raise, with the Board chair getting 5% above that. If the vote passes, they'll be paid about \$65,000/year except the chair.

Two new members will be sworn into the Lakeport City Council ahead of the New Year. Tomorrow night the council will also pick new leadership, which they do every year. The certification of the mid-term election will be presented by the Lake County Registrar of Voters Office too. The council is also meeting the city's new Fire Chief and get an update on the city's Clean Water Program.

Sheet1

The Mendocino City Community Services District Board of Directors have agreed to raise rates. Last Monday the Board also reappointed Dennak Murphy and Jim Sullivan, as president and vice president for another one-year term. There are also two new board members, Matthew Miksak and Ishvi Aum who ran unopposed. At the same meeting the board discussed a feasibility study to develop a public water system, which they will continue discussing as the months roll by. As far as the rate increases, sewer rate increases over the next five years will nearly double and groundwater management rates will double. The District is also currently in a Stage 2 drought.

The vice-mayor of Fort Bragg, who chose not to run again, has been commended on a job well done. At last week's City Council meeting Vice-Mayor Jessica Morsell-Haye resigned her position and will no longer serve, as she opted not to run again. As we reported last week, three incumbents, Marcia Rafanan, Tess Albin-Smith, and Lindy Peters, stay on the council and Jason Godeke was a new council member and sworn in. Continuing as mayor is Bernie Norvell, and new member Godeke was elected as vice-mayor. Morsell-Haye had a plaque in her name presented to her for her work on the city council.

There's an upgrade for the Mendocino Fire Protection District's fire suppression rating. That means those who own homes or property could save some money on their fire insurance under the new Public Protection Classification (PPC) grade. The International Organization of Standardization (ISO) puts out the ratings which end up being the way insurance companies calculate the price of a property's insurance policy. The Mendocino Fire Protection District got a 05/10 rating, showing higher fire suppression capabilities for outlying structures related to any structure within five miles of the fire station and all others had no change in their rating. The Fire District also says they're building a new storage barn to hold fire-fighting equipment on

Comptche Road which could also change insurance costs for those within its five-mile radius.

A new report shows kids were chronically absent to school three times as much as they were before COVID19 lockdowns and online learning. The chronically absent students in California were at 30% for kindergartners and the state overall, and 42.5% for Black students. The California Department of Education reports after one year of distance learning, when schools reopened there were massive absentee students. Ed Source reports one of the rates that stood out the most was that 30% mark for kindergartners, almost double the pre-pandemic rate.

Holiday wreaths have been laid by local 4H clubs, veterans, and community members at the Russian River Cemetary in Ukiah. It was part of the yearly Wreaths Across America that 1,200 wreaths were placed on local veterans graves to note their service and sacrifices. The Daily Journal reports the Redwood Valley/Calpella 4H club along with the Shamrock 4-H club hosted the event Saturday morning where dozens came out in force.

Put it on your calendar... Saturday, January 14th – the County of Mendocino, Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Department, and CTC Mass Notification are having a public meeting at the Redwood Valley Fire Station on the Early Warning Sirens Project. There will be time for Q&A at the meeting and there will be a demonstration of an early warning siren. They'll get it started around 10:00 AM as the Mendocino County CEO Darcie Antle kicks things off. Then it's the First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Chief Kerry Robinson, and others following the agenda. The project is funded by PG&E with settlement funds from the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire.

Sheet1

The latest crop report to the Department of Food and Agriculture shows Mendocino County lost value year over year. The report's required by the state's Food and Agricultural Code. The 2021 report was accepted by the Board of Supervisors showing from 2020 and 2021, a 10% drop in gross value for a loss of about \$22 million. Some of the reasons noted in the report included staffing and supply chain issues and the pandemic. Of course wine grapes were up there as the leading commodity, but their value was off almost 30% compared to 2020. Timber did well but lost value in alignment with wine grapes. But the county was noted as the 7th timber producer by volume. On the bright side, fruit and nuts were up in 2021 by about 4%. However cannabis was not noted for various reasons including a lack of participation.

12/20/23

A giant earthquake has hit Northern Calif. but the National WX Service says there is no Tsunami expected. The earthquake near Ferndale was measured at 6.4 and followed by strong aftershocks near Rio Dell. The initial earthquake was measured first at 6.1 then adjusted early this morning. Early this morning there were reports there may have been a structure collapse and fire in Rio Dell. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office tweeted not to call unless there was an immediate emergency. On the scanner, a warning there might be a shortage of ambulances. Also on the scanner this morning around 4 am, Hwy 211 is closed after Fernbridge was damaged.

An update on the investigation into the former Ukiah Police Chief, is that there is no news actually. Both Mendo Fever and Kym Kemp are reporting county prosecutors have been in touch with the state saying the criminal investigation into an alleged sexual assault by the former Police Chief Noble Waidelich continues with the help of another county, Sonoma. But their findings were released to the District Attorney David Eyster. Eyster's refusing to comment on the case. Waidelich was fired last summer after a woman claimed while on duty the chief demanded sexual favors. It all comes after one of Waidelich's underlings was fired and got probation for charges against him of burglary, sex assault and more.

The Feather River Fish Hatchery in Oroville is upping production of fall-run Chinook salmon next year. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced about 9.5 million fish will be raised next year in an attempt to fight back against drought and a thiamine deficiency that has impacted natural spawning and in-river production. This is the second year in a row the Feather River Fish Hatchery will exceed its typical production quota of 6 million fall-run Chinook salmon in an effort to try to sustain the state's commercial and recreational salmon fisheries. This year they raised, then released 8 million fall-run Chinook salmon smolts.

Sheet1

The Lake County Public Health Office announced the county's now in the 'medium' level of COVID19 community spread. The info was passed down from the state Department of Public Health. The latest metrics also show flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases, which are wreaking havoc nationwide are here too. Local health officials say they're also concerned about first responders who will face challenges to fulfill their duties this winter as they may be directly or indirectly exposed to the triple-demic. Not only can they get sick but it will affect how they respond to others. The community level over the last week has moved the county up to medium level for COVID, per CDC guidelines. This means masks are once again mandated in congregate indoor spaces, like jails and homeless shelters. A reminder too, to avoid close contact with people who are sick, clean commonly touched surfaces and consider wearing a well-fitting, good-quality mask when indoors or in crowded spaces, cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then toss it, stay home when sick and limit contact with others, take a COVID test and wash your hands or sanitize them after being in contact with others.

The contracts reportedly signed with the county by unions representing county workers are only for six months. Mendocino Voice reports the county employees' primary union and its management association contracts go through June 30th. Members of SEIU are getting a 2% cost-of-living adjustment starting next month. The union's several hundred employees were wanting a 7.5% adjustment instead. The Board of Supervisors also approved a minimum wage hike to \$17.42 per hour for other workers. Each side agreed to take the short-term contract so they could have room for more negotiations as the county deals with a more than 6 million dollar budget shortfall.

A young man from Lafayette in Contra Costa County has been reported missing, and possibly last seen in Ukiah. 24-year-old Angel Fulgado reportedly disappeared over the weekend, last seen early Sunday near a Safeway by his home. His dad says his last reported location was near Ukiah, but then his phone was powered down. His wife and dad went searching for him, with no luck. They also say he has no friends in the Ukiah area that they know of. He was last seen in a blue/gray 2017 four-door Toyota Corolla and the driver's side mirror has adhesive tape on it. He was last seen in a black puffer jacket, black pants, and black Nike Vapors. He's further described as being 5'4", 160 pounds with brown hair and eyes. And he has a couple of tattoos, one on his shoulder and on his chest.

Some of the worst blue/green algae has been reported in Clearlake. BlueGreen Water Technologies has released their Top 10 Worst Toxic Algal Blooms of 2022 list. The organization's CEO says the year 2022 was a "horrific year for water bodies in the U.S. and around the globe". Clear Lake was noted as #3 and as becoming a "festering cesspool of toxic gunk" each summer. The publication noting noxious blooms of toxic blue-green algae forced residents to go inside to get away from the smell and possible headaches and respiratory problems, just by being close to the lake. BlueGreen Water Technologies says in the publication they work to restore, safeguard and optimize the health, safety, accessibility, and biodiversity of waterbodies worldwide.

California could be following in the footsteps of Oregon, making magic mushrooms legal. Along with ayahuasca, another plant medicine believed to open the mind and heal past trauma, the two part of a bill introduced and backed by mental health professionals and veterans groups to become legal in Calif. Those who support the idea say it's about time the state ended its "war on drugs" and decriminalizing psychedelics would be better treatment for those with substance use disorders and anxiety and depression and more. State Sen. Scott Wiener reintroduced the bill after a previous version was pummeled by law enforcement. Some Democrats also joined Republicans and voted against it.

We could be at the end of falling gas prices in Northern Calif. as experts say they think we will swing back up again next month. Some experts say we will only go as low as three-dollars, 50-cents per gallon, unless we have a recession in the coming weeks. The Press Democrat reports Gas Buddy is saying in some areas the price is dropping about 10¢ a day and is expected to go even lower in coming weeks, but by less each day. The average price of a gallon of regular gas is about \$4.50 in Santa Rosa for example, but you can search and possibly find it for four-oh-five.

A state of emergency has been declared in Humboldt County after a 6.4 earthquake. Governor Newsom's state of emergency will help with response after the earthquake and multiple aftershocks. The epicenter for the major quake at about 2:30 yesterday morning was near the City of Ferndale. Two people were killed and many were injured. There were power outages and boil water advisories. Damage was found on roads, bridges, buildings and critical infrastructure. The Governor's proclamation came with a statement yesterday saying he had activated the State Operations Center which would work with local and tribal governments and make sure anyone who needed shelter, food and 12/21/23 water or other aid was taken care of.

A man reported missing and possibly in Ukiah has still not been found. 24-year-old Angel Salgado's wife says he left their home near Berkeley early Sunday morning and was tracked near Ukiah before the phone was powered off. His wife says there have been three reports of people seeing him, but none of the sightings have been confirmed. She says he was reportedly seen at Forks Market in Ukiah Sunday. The Sheriff's Office says they got a report he was seen, but they also have not confirmed it. There were also reports Monday he may have been in Nice at a gas station and Dollar General store. He's described as driving a blue/gray 2017 four-door Toyota Corolla, and last seen wearing a black puffer jacket, blk pants, and Nike Vapors. He's 5'4", 160 pounds.

After deliberations in a DUI case, the 32-year-old defendeant from Willits has been found not guilty. Antonio La Piccarella had been charged with a misdemeanor driving a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol of .08 or greater. The incident last year near Calpella. The CHP and representatives from the Department of Justice crime lab were the witnesses. But after a two day trial, he was found not guilty.

Sheet1

That earthquake that hit near the City of Ferndale in Humboldt County has left rubble behind for some. Some of the reports on social media or to local reporters said some folks had damage inside their homes. Some homes reportedly lifted off their foundations. Power outages hit right away yesterday morning, leaving tens of thousands in the dark. Then there were boil water advisories and broken gas lines. Shake reports came from as far as Redding to the east and the Bay Area to the south. Rio Dell was reportedly hit hard with damage to other nearby cities including Fortuna and Eureka. Two people died due to medical emergencies during or after the shaker, a 72-year-old and an 83-year-old. No other info was released about them. 11 other people were injured, including one person who fell and broke their hip. At least 40 aftershocks were reported.

The early warning system for an earthquake was reportedly in working order during the Ferndale quake. The USGS ShakeAlert team says over 3 million people were notified over the phone yesterday, and many got the alerts before the shaking. As many as 270,000 MyShake app users got a notification too, but most of the 3 million were notified through Google or Android phones which are preprogrammed with the notification system. The ShakeAlert operations team says it was a “big success” for them. They use seismometers which feel an earthquake as it reaches the surface. It then turns around and informs processors who take the info and send it as user-friendly alerts. And iPhone users may have received a Wireless Emergency Alerts system notification, like an Amber Alert.

PG&E customers may have to pay more... again... because the utility company has asked state regulators if they can charge more due to wildfires and other catastrophes. The company is looking to get back in the black after money spent to stop wildfires before they start and work to avert other disasters. This means customers could see price hikes over three years, the first in the last part of next year, potentially. PG&E reports in state filings they need to recover \$1.36 billion in costs. The company claimed bankruptcy and has been criminally charged for wildfires and that fatal gas explosion in San Bruno over a decade ago. If this goes through, a typical customer would pay about \$10 more/month when all is said and done. Most people pay over \$200/mo for gas and electric from the company.

There's a new Sheriff in Lake County. Sheriff Brian Martin is set to leave at the end of the year, and the Board of Supervisors gave the thumbs up for the head of the county's Probation Department to take over for Martin for the remainder of his term. Rob Howe will be in the position for two years, until the next election. Howe was with the sheriff's office for nearly 2 decades before he took the job as chief probation officer in 2011. Lake County News reports he was also the Sheriff's Dept. chief of staff at one point. During the Supes meeting yesterday, the Board also interviewed Lt. Lucas Bingham, but ultimately chose Howe for the opening.

Sheet1

Two new Lakeport City Council members have been sworn in and new leadership selected. In the last meeting for the council this year, the mayor and mayor pro-tem along with one other councilmember were there. They picked up the certification of the general election and resignation from Mireya Turner who accepted a position this summer to be the Lake County Community Development director. There were special meetings earlier this month to fill Turner's seat and another, left empty because Michael Green was appointed to the Board of Supervisors. The council took up other business and agreed to the city manager's employment agreement for a raise.

There's a couple of special meetings planned to take up the matter of the intended purchase of the Lucerne Hotel by the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians. The Pomo's are looking to buy the old Hotel with a state grant and flip it into a youth homeless facility. The Special meetings by the Lake County Board of Education and the Lucerne Area Town Hall to discuss the \$5.2 million Tribal Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program grant to use for the hotel purchase and renovation. The Office of Education was noted as a partner in the project, but the Superintendent of Schools was reportedly unaware. Apparently, there are other partners named too who were unaware. The Town Hall meeting is supposed to include cancelling this deal somehow.

There's still no power for over ten thousand people in Humboldt County after the earthquake outside of Ferndale. There were over 72,000 without lights yesterday morning and this morning PG&E still noted as many as 14,000 still without power a day later. Most of the reports came out of Fortuna, Ferndale and Rio Dell. There were boil water advisories in Rio Dell, and parts of Fortuna starting yesterday too, due to damaged water systems. The epicenter of the 6.4 quake was around 10 miles beneath the earth and 7.5 miles out of the City of Ferndale. 2 people died due to the earthquake and at least another 11 were injured. The Governor has declared a state of emergency for Humboldt County.

It'll cost more than 8 billion dollars a year to rid the state of homelessness. That's according to a new report which shows the state will only spend about one-eighth of that amount on the crisis that you can see as you drive down some streets in the state. The Corporation for Supportive Housing and the California Housing Partnership put out the report which says the \$8.1 billion dollars they feel could solve the crisis with various solutions is only 2.5% of California's yearly budget. The national organization supporting homeless housing says Calif. needs to spend billions of dollars for more housing for over 225,000 homeless households in the next decade or so. But that's over what the state is already spending. It could include building more low-income housing, subsidize rents for homeless families already living in private apartments and help with permanent supportive housing where unsheltered folks who are disabled can get counseling, healthcare and more.

Sheet1

After the earthquake in Humboldt County reports circulated about looting in Eureka. The report from yesterday after the quake hit. A local optician says his store was broken into at about 3 am, that's less than a half hour after the 6.4 temblor roared through. The owner said cash and products were stolen and they told police. Redheaded Blackbelt reports Eureka Police telling them they were investigating a half-dozen burglaries. The police dept. told the news site that due to earthquake damage and widespread power outages, business owners should be extra vigilant, board up broken windows if they can and keep merchandise away from windows.

After searching for three days for a young father from the Berkeley area, his body has been found. It was believed 24-year-old Angel Fulgado had been in Ukiah last Sunday after disappearing early that morning. And on Monday reports he might have been in Nice in Lake County too, but he was nowhere to be found. Instead yesterday afternoon Fulgado's body was found in his car in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. His wife was reportedly informed after and further told the death was being investigated. His car was found in vegetation along Avenue of the Giants in the High Rock area. He and his wife have a newborn.

12/22/23

After PG&E tried to take out a bald eagles' nest in Potter Valley because of a dying pine tree they were blocked by neighbors. But apparently the company is itching to get the nest to safety so they can fell the tree because it's so close to a powerline. Early this year the property owner wouldn't grant tree-cutting crews' access and neighbors also blocked the road in. Afterwards two babies were seen in the nest. The property owner says at least one of the birds has flown away. This week though, the US Fish and Wildlife Service held a meeting telling attendees they are granting PG&E a permit to remove the tree next month, before nesting season.

Those impacted by the earthquake in Humboldt County could use the public's help. The Mendocino Voice has listed ways you can donate to residents who may have to repair their homes, were injured or worse. 2 people were killed, and more than a dozen were injured. As many as 30 people in Rio Dell, which was hit hard by the 6.4 temblor, had to move out of their damaged homes, and many don't have insurance either. Still 10,000 homes are without power too, just ahead of the holidays. There is a shelter in Fortuna for those who need a place to stay. The Red Cross is accepting cash donations and has a shelter set up. The local food bank, Food for the People is accepting donations, the same for the Humboldt Area Foundation, United Disaster Relief of Northern California, World Central Kitchen, you can also drop off items at the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department and Sequoia Springs Senior Living in Fortuna.

Nothing new, but an alert that as we head into the holidays, the CHP will be out in force. And ahead of Christmas the CHP commissioner says drivers should be prepared for a lot of traffic, and major winter storms this weekend. She says to "slow down, buckle up, and never drive impaired". The CHP wants you to take extra time to get to where you're going, make sure you're fueled up and properly equipped, and to have a sober driver piloting your vehicle. Last year 28 people were killed on roads and highways due to drunk drivers on Xmas weekend.

Sheet1

A church in Kelseyville has been burglarized just before they celebrate Christmas. Lake Co News reports the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church sustained thousands in damage. That's not stopping the church from its holiday celebrations, with services and Christmas dinner. An alarm apparently went off early Tuesday morning alerting church members and staff someone was inside. When they got there they found the main church building had been broken into, along with its Fellowship Hall and food pantry. There were multiple doors and windows damaged and what looked to be hammer marks on walls, but alas, nothing was stolen. They've set up a GoFundMe to pay for the infrastructure damage.

A woman from Yuba City who reportedly tried to plow through a California Highway Patrol driver checkpoint in Lower Lake has been arrested. Lake Co News reports the DUI checkpoint was set up Saturday where officers contacted hundreds of drivers, handed out over a dozen tickets, impounded two cars and investigated 4 possible DUI's. And as they finished the checkpoint a woman in a Mini Cooper ran through the screening area at a high rate of speed, not stopping for officers. She's been identified as 22-year-old Kiara Renee Fears, who officers say hit speeds of up to 100 miles/hour on State Route 29. She ended up crashing around a turn, jumped out and ran, but was eventually caught and charged with DUI and more. She also had a suspended license and another DUI for which she was on probation.

Fuel reduction plans are being together by the Bureau of Land Management who would like to hear from the public on the matter. The agency wants public comment so they can get to work on the treatments near high fire-risk areas on public lands. The work will be across the state in most counties and in northwest Nevada. The Wildland-Urban Interface fuels treatments programmatic environmental assessment on about 900,000 acres of public land near rural communities. The BLM says the work would reduce the likelihood of loss of life, property, and community infrastructure from wildfires.

Caltrans reports they've reopened the Fernbridge in Humboldt County after the 6.4 magnitude earthquake this week. There was damage to the bridge's deck and overall structure. The span over the Eel River got a quick \$6 million infusion for the repairs and repaving of the road. The bridge on State Route 211 reopened last night with crews on hand to make sure traffic flowed well in one direction with crews on either end. They said they could continue the repairs safely with one-way controls and thanked residents who use the bridge for their patience. The quake was about 10 miles beneath the earth's surface on the Mendocino Triple Junction, where the Gorda, Pacific and North American plates meet.

A local state of emergency has been declared by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors due to the earthquake Tuesday. This will help move money quickly to victims, some of which are not covered by earthquake insurance. One of the supervisors whose area was hit hard says only about 1 in 20 people had earthquake insurance. The Governor also declared a state of emergency for the county. Many residents continue to pick up after the initial quake and multiple aftershocks. Some reports say there were 2 per hour the first day or two. The USGS reported shake alerts as far out as Chico, with most of the shaking and damage in Ferndale, Rio Dell and Fortuna. More than 2 dozen homes were reported to be unsafe to live in.

Sheet1

A bunch of money's been donated to the Lakeport Volunteer Firefighter's Association. Haunted Lake County has given \$10,000 to the Association from their 12th annual event. The event, "Your Worst Nightmare" was very popular this year with themes that included the Netflix series, Stranger Things and movies Nightmare on Elm Street, Friday the 13th, Hellraiser and more. The Lakeport Volunteer Firefighters Association not only got money, but they were active participants each night of the event.

A new report says California has 30% of the nation's homeless. The latest report from the US Dept. of Housing and Community Development after the biennial point-in-time count of the unsheltered. This year was the first count since 2019 because of the pandemic. The Dept. says over 172,000 Californians were homeless at some point this year. California was also noted as having the country's highest homelessness rate, at 44 people/10,000 experiencing homelessness; the biggest jump in the homeless population of any other state from both 2020-22 (6.2%) and 2007-22 (23.4%). The report was released after the fed announced a new program which would start next year to address homeless encampments.

As sea levels rise each year, something known as the "king tides" are set to hit California. A warning to be careful if you are out photographing today and tomorrow and January 21 and 22. King Tides are generally a foot or two higher than an average high tide, which experts say regular tides could turn into over the next twenty years or so due to human-caused sea level rise which happens due to the use of fossil fuels releasing carbon into the atmosphere. Photos taken by the public for the California King Tides Project are used by the state and local officials and researchers who study the sea level rising and flooding possibilities.

12/23/23 A man is apparently dead in the Laytonville area after a leg was found. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept reports getting a call from a woman two Sundays ago who says her boyfriend had been gone a couple of days after he said he was going for a walk into town. A deputy tried to locate the 58-year-old to no avail. Then this past Tuesday the dept. got a call to suspicious clothing found, the following day, this Wednesday a human leg was found, and the search was on. Yesterday more human remains were found they say may have been related to the leg. The remains have not been positively identified and the investigation continues.

Congressman Jared Huffman announced the US Postal Service is getting a bunch of electric vehicles. After the federal government announced an agreement with the USPS, the agency is going at least 70% EV and will be 100% EVs by 2026. The agreement says the service will also electrify postal facilities with \$3 billion in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. Huffman says it's great news for the future of the postal service, the economy and the planet. He touts asking for the money to electrify the postal service vehicle fleet each year in appropriations bills since 2014, and says he's drafted multiple postal fleet electrification bills too. He also pressured the agency to electrify its old vehicles which were supposed to be replaced with more gas guzzling vehicles.

Sheet1

A new report says prosecutors across the State of California are against state Senator Scott Wiener's bill to allow the decriminalization of some hallucinogenic drugs, including magic mushrooms or psilocybin. The head of the Calif. District Attorney's Association says the proposal "recklessly puts policy before science" and says some of the drugs in the bill have been proven to be highly unpredictable and "have even been connected to violent crimes". He does say however that if supporters are looking for more research or advocating for their therapeutic use under medical supervision, that's another story. But the bill is reckless, just the same.

A woman from Willits is accusing a cop of years of sexual misconduct. We are not naming the 41-year-old who says from 2015 to 2020, Derek Hendry, victimized her. She claims the former cop with various agencies was physically violent, threatened to jail her and used the power of his badge to coerce her into several sexual acts, one time, even inside a police vehicle. The woman is a former addict who has a criminal record and says she knows that might go against her credibility, but says that's why Hendry went after her, and other addicts. Hendry worked in the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office until 2018, then the Willits Police Dept. He was fired from both agencies. This summer the Willits police chief reportedly asked the Lake County Sheriff's Office to investigate and criminal charges were forwarded to the Mendocino County DA's office for consideration.

The commercial Dungeness crab fishery is opening finally in Fishing Zones 3-6. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has approved opening all areas south of the Sonoma/Mendocino county Line, but there's a 50 percent trap reduction starting New Year's Eve. There's a 64-hour gear setting period that begins next Wednesday, Dec. 28th. The agency says the trap reduction is to reduce a risk of entanglement for humpback whales as they continue migrating to their winter breeding grounds. Vessels have to have at least half of their valid buoy tags for the current fishing season visible for inspection at all times until the trap reduction is lifted. As for Fishing Zones 1 and 2 (Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties), they will also open the same time. They were delayed due to poor meat quality results.

A bunch of weapons accessories have been found by the Lake County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Department of Homeland Security at a home in Hidden Valley Lake. A search warrant was served as part of an investigation regarding the import, manufacturing, distribution, and buying of the accessories. Officers say Justin Spillers was compiling the items to make ghost guns and had been buying and imported so-called "Glock switches" which are illegal in California. They're used to make a handgun fully automatic. Officers say they also found an assault weapon and silencers for the weapons, ammo and further evidence he was assembling full weapons there. The man was not there at the time and has not been contacted yet by police. They will forward all to the DA's office for potential charges.

Sheet1

After some back and forth over the last couple of weeks, the Lucerne Area Town Hall says no to the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo to use a grant from the state to buy the Lucerne Hotel for homeless youth housing. It was after a two-hour long meeting where it was agreed a letter would be sent to Lake County, the State of Calif. and the federal government on the matter. The special meeting was called for this week after reports escrow on the old hotel would close by the end of the month. Lake County News reports a pretty decent sized crowd showed up and about 20 more people attended on Zoom and the more on Facebook Live. The decision not to approve of the sale boiled down to community impact.

A water study published on illegal cannabis grow impacts has been released by the federal government. The US Forest Service reports there was a “surprising” amount of contaminated water related to the cannabis grow sites. The Forest Service says it further shows there’s a need to close down the “clandestine sites and monitor their impacts to conserve the public’s natural resources”. The study was done at four different national forests in California. The researchers used new polar organic chemical integrative samplers to see if there was water-soluble pesticides which were found at 11 percent of downstream sampling stations during the first wet season.

A special meeting by the Lake County Office of Education board in conjunction with the Lucerne Area Town Hall regarding the purchase of the old Lucerne Hotel by the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians. The meeting Wednesday to look over the Tribe’s application, then grant award of over 5 million dollars to purchase the hotel and turn it into a youth homeless shelter. The tribe noted some partnerships on the project, which specifically the Board of Education stipulated they were unaware of. The application showed the Tribe felt the hotel would have been a perfect venue for the shelter. The Superintendent of Schools says the idea is out of the scope of their regular work.

A former Rohnert Park police officer pleads not guilty to federal charges against him that also include a former sergeant. Joseph Huffaker was indicted on charges of impersonating a federal officer, falsifying records and aiding and abetting. Another defendant, Brendan “Jacy” Tatum, pleaded guilty to extortion charges against him at the beginning of the month. Tatum was charged with extorting at least \$3,700 in cash and 85 pounds of marijuana from drivers traveling Highway 101. Huffaker is accused of taking part in at least two of these incidents. Tatum led the Rohnert Park Public Safety Department’s Drug Interdiction Team for three years. Prosecutors accuse both men of running a shakedown operation where they could coerce drivers into giving them cash, pot and property if they
12/26/23 would let the drivers go.

When tens-of-thousands of people lost power in Humboldt County after an earthquake last Tuesday, a mini power grid turned one Native American reservation into virtually the only area where the lights were still on. Some 10,000 people were served by the Blue Lake Rancheria during the day long power outage. Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport and Blue Lake Rancheria were the only two public places that preserved power in the area during that time. Many lined up to use wifi and charge their devices after tribal police opened up an emergency center.

Sheet1

Three big Lake County projects will get funding thanks to Representative Mike Thompson of California's 5th district. \$3,738,600 in total from the government's final 2023 appropriations government funding bill. Including \$2,000,000 for the Clearlake Burns Valley Sports Complex and Recreation Center Project, \$988,600 for the Lakeport Armory Facility Repurposing Project, and \$750,000 for the Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. Clearlake City Councilman Dirk Slooten says "The Burns Valley Sports Complex is one of the most transformative projects we are working on for our community." Money for the Burns Valley Sports Complex will allow them to break ground next year.

A man is being held in the Humboldt County Jail after a reported shooting incident on Highway 101. On Friday a driver heading north on 101, south of SR-299, allegedly opened fire on another driver. The suspect, identified, as Daniel Robert Logan Fernandez Ralls, fled the scene afterward in his 2014 Mercedes C350. With the help of Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Ralls was taken into custody by the California Highway Patrol. The other driver was not hurt. And no damage to his vehicle was reported. Anyone who saw the incident is asked to call the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

Drivers in Humboldt County be aware. Roadwork continues through this Thursday the 29th in several areas. The Bridge work south of Phillipsville will continue. On Highway 101 near Myers Flat, also emergency work at Fields Landing Overhead. In that area, drivers should look for an alternate route. The emergency work from "B" Street to "D" Street is ongoing. The northbound lane will be closed from 12Pm till 7pm. And Emergency work at Fernbridge. One-way traffic control will be in effect and motorists should expect up to 10-minute delays. Utility work between Pacheco (Pah-CHAY-Coe) Road and Jackson Ranch Road will result in One-way traffic control will be in effect from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Motorists should anticipate 10-minute delays. Falsework installation from Route 200 to Route 101 will mean One-way traffic in effect from 6 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

After the earthquake last Tuesday, tens of thousands of people were without power, But a mini power grid turned one Native American reservation into virtually the only area where the lights were still on. Some 10,000 people were served by the Blue Lake Rancheria during the day long power outage. Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport and Blue Lake Rancheria were the only two public places that preserved power in the area during that time. Many lined up to use wifi and charge their devices after tribal police opened up an emergency center.

After a year of California drivers paying some of the highest prices on record for gasoline, the prices are finally coming down. The average price in the state for a gallon of regular is around \$4.34, which is 80 cents lower than a month ago and 30 cents lower than a year ago. Roughly 112 million million people will have traveled from Christmas till January 3rd. Around 101 million by car. Local refineries coming back on line is one of the reasons for the price drop. Doug Shupe of Triple A in Southern California says that fewer people were filling up and driving last month also contributing to the price drop. Gas prices in Humboldt County averaging a little higher at \$4.59. A little lower in Mendocino County at \$4.09

Sheet1

A power outage has been reported near Fort Bragg along Highway 20. As of last night there were about 140 or so customers were without power. Then about a half hour later a small fire was reported with power lines down pretty close to the area, which was caused by severe weather. No estimated time of the power coming back on was immediately available.
12/27/23

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has some events coming up in the New year. On January 10th, there will be a yearly meeting to go over general business and organization for 2023. You can attend on Zoom or the county's YouTube channel. If you want to comment send an email to the Board of Supervisors through their eComment platform. Or leave a voicemail on their phone line. For details about the agenda, visit the Board's website.

The yearly swearing in for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors new members is set for the New Year. At their first meeting in 2023, next Tuesday, the Board will swear in newly elected members at 10 am. The County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomie will be conducting the Oaths of Office. Elected officials are being told to bring the Oath of Office they have already received, and if they didn't get it to call the Registrar's office. You can catch the swearing in ceremony on the County's YouTube page.

The Palace Hotel in the news as it's restored to its former glory. The Ukiah mainstay is being overhauled by architects and engineers from San Francisco known for recycling historic buildings. The historic preservation experts are going to get into the permitting process for the facelift, working with city officials and apparently applying too, through the state Historic Preservation Office. They're eyeing a start of construction in about a year. The new owner says she's putting one year into the plan, then after all approvals are secured the old hotel will be transformed into a visitor and retail center. Architects Page & Turnbull in San Francisco are collaborating. The first draft application of restoration plans are being sent to state Historic Preservation Office next month.

Some towns in Humboldt County are still picking up the pieces after the 6.4 earthquake rattled residents. The Sheriff William Honsal and the Office of Emergency Services manager Ryan Derby were at Thursday's special board of supervisors meeting for an update. It had been canceled on Tuesday because it was the same day as the temblor. The Sheriff said the state of emergency was declared last week with an eye on keeping community members housed and safe. And Derby said they were coordinating with several agencies to get damage estimates. The board unanimously voted to ratify the state of emergency which will help expedite recovery efforts.

Congressman Mike Thompson lauded the latest government funding bill which he says had provisions he wrote on marriage and family therapists and telehealth to be included. It was due to COVID19 and lockdowns that many people needed to access care and couldn't. Thompson said it's essential to the wellbeing of the community to be able to get care including an expansion of the amount of mental health care providers to Medicare beneficiaries and for an expansion of telehealth since the COVID-19 pandemic. Thompson says the policies he was able to get into the government funding bill, will help communities get the care they need, especially in underserved and hard-to-reach areas.

Sheet1

In Lake County a group serving teenagers donated some goods with the help of Santa for Christmas. Totes4Teens delivered stuffed duffle bags and Santa Bags worth about \$350 to teenagers across Lake County. 131 teens in need received the items after the Totes4Teens committee spent all year getting the program together. The goods were delivered the Monday following Thanksgiving to the agencies and schools who were helping. Then they are able to get the teens their gifts during the winter/Christmas break. The group says many of the donated items were handmade, everything was brand new, size appropriate, and high quality.

Californians are being invited to nominate folks who have shown themselves to be leaders, and who have significantly contributed to a healthier Calif. The California State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) is giving the Golden Bear Award to residents who have helped preserve the state's natural and cultural resources and created opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. The award recognizes these people each summer. The Commission gives out the award to five individuals – one statewide and one per division (Northern, Coastal, Central, Southern). The 2023 nomination period for the Golden Bear Award program is open now until June 30, 2023.

The newest dean for the Woodland Community College's Lake County campus has been announced. The Yuba Community College District has chosen Ingrid Larsen unanimously. Lake County News reports Larsen has been an academic counselor and instructor for college success skills there since 2016. She's taking over for Dr. Annette Lee who was the dean on an interim basis. Larsen studied undergrad at California State University, Chico, then got her Masters in counseling at Sonoma State.

The District Attorney for Sonoma County has announced the first payment by Pacific Gas & Electric Company ("PG&E") to pay local nonprofits impacted by wildfires. There are five payments to be made as part of an agreement with the energy company related to the Kincade Fire. Fire Safe Sonoma, Conservation Corps North Bay, Nuestra Comunidad, Council on Aging, Interfaith Shelter Network, Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin and Jameson Humane all got at least \$100,000. They will get four more payments too. Several local health clinics are getting tens of thousands of dollars too because of air contaminants related to the 2019 fire that burned 77,000 acres and destroyed hundreds of homes. It triggered the largest evacuation in the county's history, with 200,000 residents rushed from their homes. 5 people were injured in the fire.

A grant has been awarded to Redwood Community Services for its Tule House in Lake County. The money to be used for improvements and expansions at the residential treatment program for mothers undergoing treatment for substance use disorders. 8 moms get to stay in a family-like setting and have their kids with them. The Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program is one of more than 50 projects that benefitted from the Governor's recently announced half billion dollars to improve California's behavioral health infrastructure for children and youth. 8 more beds will be added at the House for a total of 16 women in treatment at one time.

Questions remain about why the coast of Northern Calif. gets hit by earthquake's in the "Mendocino Triple Junction." The USGS named the point where three faults and three plates meet where it's said to be the most seismically active area in California. The San Francisco Chronicle reports one of the researchers at the federal agency says there have been at least 40 other size 6 or larger earthquakes along the faults over the last 100 years. It includes six which were 7.0 or larger too. There was also a 6.2 one year ago on December 20th, 2021. The area is also sometimes called the "Triangle of Doom". The USGS is still trying to pinpoint an exact location of the epicenter. Right now, they have an idea, but it's not concrete.

Bond proposals on the General Election ballot last month means more money to schools. Voters approved about 2/3rds of the TK-12 and community college construction bond proposals. Of the 71 of 101 approved, 65 out of 94 TK-12 proposals and six of seven community college district ballot measures will bring in about \$20 billion for renovations and new construction. Humboldt County lost almost \$8 million for the Ferndale district though, they had many buildings in disrepair even before last week's earthquake. Napa also lost by only a half point. Most of the bonds won in Southern California where some of the initiatives won more than 70% of the vote. Some of the districts say they'll have to dip into 12/28/23 COVID relief money for the repairs.

One of the largest wine-making companies in the US is suing their insurance company after damage to their properties from wildfires. Jackson Family Wines, who makes Kendall-Jackson, Arrowood and more sued in federal court claiming Zurich Insurance Co. had not paid anywhere near their policy claims for the Nuns, Tubbs and Pocket fires of 2017; the Kincade Fire of 2019; and the Glass Fire of 2020. The company says they've received less than \$70 million dollars, or about 16% of their total losses they submitted invoices and proposals for. Jackson Valley has several wineries and around 15,000 acres of vines in Napa and Sonoma counties. They say the insurer was deliberating delaying open fire claims to avoid paying out.

A man from Ukiah's behind bars after he was found by patrol officers with drugs, a knife, and a dirk/dagger. Deputies out on patrol Friday saw 30-year-old Kevin Worley driving a car and knew he had a suspended license and an active misdemeanor arrest warrant. Worley pulled over and was searched. He was found with a concealed dirk or dagger, suspected methamphetamine and suspected fentanyl and booked into jail on \$18,500.00 bail.

After the atmospheric river ripped through Mendocino County the National Weather Service says it dropped about six inches of rain or more. The service reports there was heavy rain across the county, with the most at over six inches in Northwest Mendocino County at 3,100 feet. There were history making rain reports, over 1.9 inches fell on Woodley Island in Eureka, breaking its last record of 1.68 inches almost to the day, on Dec. 26, 1931. There were also strong winds that toppled a tree onto one person's car while they sat at a campground in Humboldt County. The NWS had reported strong winds took down multiple trees across Humboldt, Del Norte and Mendocino counties.

Sheet1

The wildfire risk map is being updated in California. It's the first time since 2007. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or Cal Fire is having meetings to discuss the updated map next month in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties. The department's Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone Map still needs formal regulatory approval though. It currently shows more wildfire hazard areas within California than there were 15 years ago, including in unincorporated and rural areas.

A man is dead after a crash in Potter Valley. The California Highway Patrol reports 18-year-old Samuel Caldwell of Potter Valley was driving a 2016 Subaru Crosstrek on Eel River Road early Monday morning when for unknown reasons he went over the double yellows into opposing lanes of traffic. His car was hit head on by a 2001 Chevy Cavalier on Eel River Road. The CHP says Caldwell and another 18-year-old, also from Potter Valley, both had major injuries. The driver of the Chevrolet, a 19-year-old male, also from Potter Valley, also had major injuries. And a 28-year-old man in the Chevy who lives in Willits was killed. The CHP says they suspect alcohol was a "contributing factor in the crash". They arrested Caldwell for suspicion of felony driving under the influence.

A slew of new laws go into effect like any other New Year. But for the first time ever in California, though, jaywalking will be decriminalized January 1st. For nearly 100 years, California had one of the strictest jaywalking laws in the country which included possible arrest and big fines. Now the "Freedom to Walk" Act gives more flexibility to pedestrians, at the same time saying careful judgment when crossing streets, if there is no immediate danger, and the pedestrian isn't creating a hazard, is legal.

California is now considered the most populous state. According to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau, which also says the Golden State has lost over a half-million residents since April 1st of 2020. As of July 1st, of this year, California's population was just over 39-million-29 thousand.

Federal law enforcement agencies being heralded by Congressman Mike Thompson, the Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force on new rules regarding ghost guns. Lake County News reports Thompson, who now covers all of Lake County, is strongly supporting a move by the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for new guidance on ghost guns which Thompson says criminals use because they're untraceable and can be sold without a background check. The new rules come after the House's Gun Violence Prevention Task Force pressured the ATF to enforce a rule against the use and sale of ghost guns.

The CHP has put out some guidance ahead of the New Year on public and traffic safety after the Governor signed some new bills into law regarding rules of the road. One of them lists who can legally sell recycled catalytic converters as the parts. The recyclers are now required to have documentation on the part and a copy of the vehicle title where the catalytic converter came from. It's to bring down the amount of catalytic converter thefts in the state. Another is regarding speeding and reckless driving with more and more street racing in Calif. Anyone involved in sideshow activity, exhibition of speed, or speeding over 100 miles per hour resulting in a death can be charged with Vehicular Manslaughter with Gross Negligence. And the new "Feather Alert" will begin, like the Amber or Silver Alert, the Feather Alert is triggered when an indigenous person has been kidnapped, abducted, or reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, and specific criteria has been met to permit alert activation.

A dramatic change of events for the Potter Valley Project as the Fed has a change of heart. PG&E has been planning to decommission the hydro-electric plant that diverts water from the Eel to the Russian River for some time. Now the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, says it may reopen the license. The agency granted PG&E its annual license last April, but will apparently add requirements for wildlife protection and habitat monitoring proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service in March. PG&E says there's no evidence of harm from the decommissioning process. But FERC is accepting comments supporting and planning the reopening of the license as PG&E promises to send in the decommissioning documents by January of 2025. Also, PG&E has asked FERC if it can transfer some of its hydropower projects to Pacific Generation as a reorganization move.

Some information has been updated for folks displaced by the Dec. 20 earthquake in Humboldt County. The Red Cross Overnight Shelter remains open at the Fortuna Firemen's Pavilion. The Red Cross also has dumpsters set up at Rio Dell City Hall after they gave out nearly 200 clean up kits. They ask not to dump hazardous materials there though. There's still a Local Assistance Center opened at a middle school in Rio Dell (Monument). Also, the supply distribution site is moving to the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. If Rio Dell residents are having a hard time reaching their landlord for help with cleanup, they're told to call the City itself. The boil water advisory was lifted. And anyone who gets CalFresh benefits and lost food can get replacement benefits. Donations are still being accepted at the Rio Dell Fire Dept who has set up a Venmo and GoFundMe for residents. Also, Pay it Forward Humboldt and the American Red Cross.

A man in Fort Bragg found hiding in a closet inside a business has been arrested after an alarm was set off. On Tuesday cops got a call to the commercial building on Main St. and saw a window had been broken on the side of the building. Inside they saw a backpack that was unique enough that the officer remembered who it belonged to, 29-year-old Peter Rose. He'd been involved in an earlier call with police, so the officer requested backup. They found the guy under cardboard in a closet and arrested him. Rose had some foreign coins in his pocket, apparently stolen from desks in the office.

Sheet1

A little extra to start the New Year. On their way out the door for the year, the Lake County Board of Supervisors voted to give themselves a hefty raise. At their last meeting of the year this week members voted for a 40% raise which will start in March. Supervisors have been making about \$25,500 a year for some time and had discussed a raise last month. Now they'll have it unless there's a referendum against it. But there also has to be a second vote to put the pay raise in motion. If all goes as planned, supes will pocket an additional \$2,100 a month. Also, at their meeting the Board said no, by a narrow margin, for a new senior substance abuse counselor to be hired.

There's a flood watch in Lake County as the Atmospheric River dumped historic amounts of rain. The National Weather Service put out the watch for today starting at 4 p.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday. Another dumping is expected with as much as 4 inches of rain in lower elevations and some areas could reach a total of 7 inches at higher elevations over the coming week. Since the earth is already pretty wet, the increase of flooding comes as the water just lays on top of saturated soils. We could see the atmospheric rivers continuing into late next week with Lake County expecting almost 8 inches from today to Saturday.

In Mendocino County we also have a flood watch in effect, but it starts today at 4p and ends Saturday, New Year's Eve at 10am. There's also a hazardous weather alert in place.

A Calif. correctional officer is charged with using his power to get sexual favors from female inmates. Reports say Officer Greg Rodriguez would flirt with the inmates, especially one 30-year-old at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla who he's accused of raping. He would lure them over the loudspeakers when they were in the recreation yard to the parole hearing room and victimize and rape them. That's according to two federal civil rights lawsuits filed against him this month. The suits claim there was a code of silence within the prison which allowed the officer to pick off the women, before he was finally placed on leave, then retired. An investigation started in July, turning up 22 victims, but officials say there could be more.

The California Health Marketplace is open. Covered Calif. is telling those without health insurance they should sign up, especially now with the trio of respiratory illnesses this winter, RSV, the Flu and of course, COVID19. Californians who cannot afford it, can get help through the marketplace, also known as the Affordable Care Act. But they will need to sign up before the end of the year to be covered by Jan. 1st. Financial assistance is available on a sliding scale to reduce premiums.

If you're worried about your property during this crazy rainstorm, you can get free sandbags. As we're in the midst of flood watches and alerts, Friedman's Home Improvement in Ukiah has 20 free sandbags and sand for anyone in need. You can also buy more if needed, but the sand is still free. Just go to the yard entrance at any of their locations. A caveat: you will have to fill your own bag. For more info, call the store manager.

Sheet1

The Dungeness Crab fishery is finally getting under way. Commercial crabbers can start fishing Saturday in Humboldt County, but negotiations over the price could delay things again. Crabbers are reportedly negotiating still with fish processors over the per pound price, so they may not have a deal in place until next week. Word it is could be about \$4.75/pound. And the price could go higher depending on the amount of available crab. Plus add in inflation for other costs to crabbers like fuel, repairs and spare parts. South of the Sonoma-Mendocino County line, Humboldt County crabbers didn't have to reduce their traps due to humpback whales.

A man accused of a double murder at a home in Northern Calif. considered a fugitive has been caught. The Humboldt County Sheriff's dept reportedly saved a 4-year-old from the scene at a home in Eureka just after midnight Tuesday. The parents of the child were found dead after the tot's screams were heard. Deputies had been searching for Russell Martin Albers in connection with the shooting. The Sheriff posted on Instagram "Great Police work and teamwork by our deputy sheriffs, dispatchers, California Highway Patrol, Bureau of Land Management, State Parks, EPD, and University police" who helped them nab Albers. They have not said what his relationship might have been with the couple, but witnesses identified him as the shooter.

They've opened up a local assistance center after that destructive earthquake in Humboldt County. The City of Rio Dell is hosting the center for those impacted by the 6.4 that hit last Tuesday, December 20th. The Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services are partnering for the center at Monument Middle School. It'll be open today and tomorrow for residents to register for help from multiple agencies who will have representatives there. It's not only for people living in Rio Dell, it's for all who may have had damage or destruction caused by the temblor. The mayor says they will be there for the community, to help people "pick up the pieces". She and other officials say immigration status will not be taken into account for 12/30/23 victims.

There's new life being breathed into the old Kmart building in Lakeport. It's been three years since it became a victim of the massive closure nationwide including Sears stores. Lake Co News reports at the last Planning Commission meeting of the year, an architect's application for a use permit was approved for the architectural and design review. The plan is to renovate, then subdivide the nearly 91,000 square foot space into three leased spots, two will be taken up by a new Marshalls store, and the third will be occupied by a Tractor Supply Co., which will be the second location in Lake County. Kmart closed after being in that spot for nearly 3 decades.

It's the end of the road for the State Fire Marshal. Chief Michael J. Richwine says he's retiring from Cal Fire's Office of the State Fire Marshal. He's been with the agency for 36 years and has been a firefighters for 42 years. He was appointed to the top spot by Governor Gavin Newsom in May of 2020. He was first a firefighter in the Hanford Fire Dept., then rose through the ranks in various positions including as a trainer, Deputy State Fire Marshal, Hazardous Materials and Pipeline Safety Division, chief of state fire training, and chief of the Fire Engineering Division. Today is the chief's last day.

Sheet1

Cow Mountain in Ukiah is closed to the public. The Bureau of Land Management has closed the management area due to the heavy rain and oversaturation of the ground. The South Cow Mountain website says the Management Area is temporarily closed due to heavy precipitation and poor road and trail conditions with a phone number to call for more information, 707-468-4000.

2 people in Fort Bragg have been arrested after reports about a woman who had violated her probation staying in a hotel in town. Police headed to the hotel on Main St. on Wednesday looking for Rachel Hunt, where they saw her with a bunch of pills and multiple bags of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. With her, was Daniel Sanchez, also of Fort Bragg, who gave cops a phony name. They found he also had a felony warrant for a parole violation. The two were taken to jail after officers found evidence of possible drug sales including, prescription meds, marijuana, small plastic baggies and metal knuckles. Some of the charges against the pair included violating their probations, possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of metal knuckles and providing false ID to a police officer.

We are still getting pounded by rain in Mendocino County. The National Weather Service warns heavy showers will persist through tomorrow morning with rainfall totals in Mendocino County from 3.5 to 6 inches. The service also warns rivers are rising fast, with the Russian River near Hopland expected to reach 15 feet or flood stage by Saturday. That means there could be flooding of Highway 175 at the approaches to the Russian River bridge. Minor flooding is also expected on cropland on the west bank of the river. A Flood Watch is in effect for the Russian River near Hopland from late tonight to tomorrow afternoon. Navarro River near Navarro is forecast to rise today to 16 feet and peak at around 20 feet tomorrow night. Flooding for the Navarro is 23 feet, which we are not expected to see.

There's still a chance to receive your inflation relief payment. The payments from the state started going out mid-November. The Middle-Class Tax Refund direct deposit payments have already been sent from the California Franchise Tax Board, who says the rest of the payments are being sent as debit cards and should be mailed out over the next two weeks. Those eligible who have not received their payments are folks who got a state-issued pandemic stimulus payment through direct deposit but changed their banking info after they filed their 2020 taxes. The agency says as of yesterday they had sent over 7 million direct deposits and more than 8 million debit cards worth \$8.4 billion, most of the \$9.5 billion to help defray the cost of gasoline, groceries, and other goods over recent months. Payments range from \$200 to \$1,050.

There are five free days at national parks in 2023. The U.S. National Park Service has free entrance days each year for the holidays and to celebrate milestones for natural preservation, like the anniversary of the 2020 Great American Outdoors Act. There are over 400 parks that qualify. The first free day is January 16th, the birthdate of Martin Luther King, Jr. Keep in mind, it's only entrance fees that are free, you may have to pay for tours, camping and transportation. The other four days that are free are April 22nd, August 4th, which is the anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act, Sept. 23rd and November 11th: Veterans Day.