

## KWINE FCC Reports 1 2020

01/02/20 Parents of three kids who left them home alone, while they went out

Parents of three kids who left them home alone, while they went out partying on New Years, are behind bars. According to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, they found the three boys, ages 9, 23 months, and seven months old, screaming and crying at a home on North Petaluma Avenue around 8 pm. Deputies noted that the condition of the household was deplorable. Due to that, Child Protective Services was called in and took custody of the three. The parents, 35-year-old Angela Ariaz and 39-year-old Joshua Ethier was found shortly after 10 pm drunk at a bar on East Redwood Avenue. Both are facing charges of felony child endangerment.

The Lakeport Police Department announced earlier this week that it had hired two new police officers. The recruits Juan Altamirano and Aaron Hodges are both from Lake County. The two will begin their training at the police academy this coming Monday.

California begins the New Year as the first state to offer healthcare for immigrants. Anyone between 19 and 25 years old living here illegally and with a low income can become eligible for Medicaid. The program will cost an estimated 98-million dollars and cover an additional 90-thousand people.

Tech companies like Facebook and Google will now have to reveal what information they collect on Californians. A groundbreaking privacy law begins Wednesday letting internet users ask for their data. They also have the right to demand it be deleted and not sold to a third party.

A Lake County Sheriff's deputy shot and killed a man wielding a knife over the weekend. According to the Press Democrat, the fight Saturday night began outside of a Clearlake Oaks Dollar General store shortly before 10 pm and ended in a creek bed. The deputy involved Wesley Besgrove ended up in the hospital with a broken leg, head wound, and bite marks. The suspect 34-year-old Craig Ellis See of Lower Lake died at the scene. According to officials, See had a history with the sheriff's department with charges of theft and trespassing. Deputy Besgrove is on administrative leave. The Sheriff's Office has confirmed that Besgrove was wearing a body camera during the incident, and they hope to release the footage sometime later this week.

A Clearlake man is behind bars after weapons, and drug paraphernalia was discovered during a traffic stop. On Sunday afternoon, Clearlake police pulled over 18-year-old Jesus Munoz Griego near Highlands way and Old Highway 54 after the officer saw Munoz-Griego make a fast right turn from the highway onto the wrong side of the road. The officer noticed that Munoz-Griego was reaching toward the floorboard below him. After a search of the vehicle, a TEC-9, knife, and meth pipe were found. He is charged with suspicion of an illegal firearm and drug paraphernalia.

Don't be surprised if your utility bill from PG&E has gone up. As of January 1st, customers' bills will increase by about 1.5% or \$2.64 a month on a combined gas-electric bill. Now how much it goes up depends upon what types of services you get. For electricity, they are forecasting an approximate 2.7% averaged residential rate increase, which is about \$3.29. The rate for gas is declining; customers will have a 65-cent reduction for those who only receive gas.

The California State Troopers are warning folks about new road laws that went into effect Wednesday. Passengers in a limo, taxi, bus, etc. are no longer able to smoke or ingest cannabis. Now, this is a weird one; you wouldn't think you would need a law for this, but— it is now illegal for you to collect or eat roadkill without a permit. And finally, bicyclists are now allowed to travel straight through a turn lane at intersections.

The 14th annual Bucket Brigade Blood Drive competition between local fire departments in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties to see who can host the largest blood drive. Twenty-one different departments across the three counties will compete. Those who participate will receive a t-shirt as a token of thanks. Tomorrow at the Mendocino Fire Department Station on Little Lake Road, there will be a blood drive held from 1 pm until 5 pm. Blood donations tend to decline in the winter months and holidays; unfortunately, this is when more accidents happen, making the need for blood even more important. Last year over 855 people participated in the blood drive.

A free workshop to prepare your business just in case a natural disaster occurs will be held on January 7th and 8th by the West Business Development Center. The two-hour seminar titled 'Emergency Prep For Your Business, The Important Stuff' will help small businesses develop a plan for the next crisis. On January 7th, the workshop will be held in Fort Bragg from 9 am until 11 am and the following day in Ukiah. If you attend, you will receive a training booklet and free personalized consulting on how to develop your emergency plan.

Mendocino County has decided to shorten its Williamson Act contracts with agriculture landowners this year to raise more money in property taxes. The Board of Supervisors voted, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0. The Williamson Act is also called California Land Conservation Act of 1965 which allows local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to allow land to be used for agriculture or open space use. The Williamson Act allows the landowners to receive property tax assessments that are lower than the market value since the land is used for ag. The

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county will now notify all affected landowners of the final decision.

A Mendocino woman is behind bars on felony grand theft charges and battery on a peace officer after an incident at the Harvest at Mendosa's last week. Deputies were called out around 6 pm for a shoplifter. 40-year-old Bailey Marie Albers had reportedly loaded up a shopping cart full of merchandise and walked out the door. Deputies tracked her vehicle and found her on Main Street with numerous items reported stolen from the store. When confronted by officers Albers became combative, tried to escape, kicked a deputy and even spit at them. She faces felony grand theft, felony possession of stolen property, resisting arrest and battery on a peace officer.

A power outage that affected thousands of customers in Eureka Thursday was caused by a drunk driver. According to police 23-year-old, Kayla Kempton was under the influence, driving recklessly hit a vehicle and then crashed into a power pole. Kempton even tried to run away to avoid being caught by police. The driver of the other car was taken to the hospital, no word on their condition. PG&E had to send crews out to repair the pole to get power restored. Kempton is charged with DUI, hit and run, and driving without a license.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office is searching for a man wanted for a violating his parole. On Thursday, the Humboldt SWAT team tried to serve a warrant at a home in Shelter Cove on Eileen Road. Deputies had received a tip that the subject Aaron Arlotta was at the home. After searching the house Arlotta was not found. Officers did arrest 37-year-old Sarah Griffin for resisting a peace officer. Officials are urging anyone who may know the whereabouts of Aaron Arlotta to contact the sheriff's office.

Ukiah welcomes its first baby of the new year, and it's a boy. Daniel Ramos was born at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley at 8:46 am New Year's Day to parents Alma and Miguel. The boy weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and 19 inches long. According to his mother, Daniel was a bit late, he was supposed to be due back on December 30th. Staff at the hospital gave his parents a month's supply of diapers. UNICEF reports that over 11-thousand two hundred and eighty babies are born in the US on New Year's Day.

The Mendocino National Forest is planning to use both herbicides and hand tools to get rid of the invasive broom plants sprouting in the footprint of the Ranch Fire that scorched 288-thousand acres back in 2018. The US Forest Service says the treatment project needs to get started in the spring to help stop the regrowth of the Scotch, Spanish, and French broom plants that become a wildfire hazard. The Forest Service will notify the public before any spraying begins and will post information at the specific locations.

State water officials are optimistic about the amount of snow on the Sierra Nevada. They say the water contained in the Sierra Nevada snowpack was 97 percent of normal for January 2nd at Philips Station where it was measured. Reports show 85-percent of the water for four Bay Area counties, including San Francisco, comes from melting snow in the Sierra

01/03/20 Nevada.

Two Sonoma County sheriff's deputies are recovering after crashing while responding to a call off State Highway 12. They got word of a domestic violence incident at a home along the highway near Melita Road Wednesday evening. As one deputy got to the home, the other rear-ended the first. One of the deputies was taken to the hospital and the other suffered minor injuries. The highway was shut down for about an hour and an investigation is underway.

The man accused of being the Northern California Rapist is facing dozens of charges. Fifty-nine-year-old Roy Charles Waller appeared in Sacramento County Superior Court yesterday. He is accused of sexually assaulting at least nine women in a series of attacks that spanned six Northern California counties. Prosecutors say Waller would use a weapon to victimize the women, many of whom were Asian. The attacks occurred between 1991 and 2006. DNA evidence linked Waller to the crimes. Waller remains in custody and will be back in court when his preliminary hearing continues on January 10.

The Mendocino District Attorney's office has completed what many would consider a daunting task in half the time they were given. Proposition 64, which went into effect after voters elected to pass the legislation in 2016, contained provisions that reduced or eliminated marijuana law violations, while at the same time, made the changes retroactive. Meaning people who were convicted of a felony or misdemeanor marijuana-related offenses could be expunged or downgraded. While there were 3,311 marijuana convictions in Mendocino County, only 130 people had sought to have their convictions overturned From November 8, 2016, through December 31, 2019. District Attorney David Eyster fast-tracked his case reviews, using his own in-house data management system, a system known as Justware. Using the system, the District Attorney's office was able to review every case involving marijuana and other drug charges and file written motions to the Mendocino County Superior Court. In all, 3,311 motions were filed, the same number of marijuana convictions in the county dating back to 1973.

A Ukiah man is in jail for trying to flee police, drug possession, and weapons possession. The Ukiah police say that they arrested 39-year-old Jorge Sinudo-Zavalla Thursday afternoon after he attempted to flee police. Officers reportedly found "large amounts" of meth, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana packaged for sale in his possession, along with an unregistered handgun and ammunition. He has been charged with possession with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance while possessing a firearm, and resisting arrest.

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A faulty chimney pipe started a house fire over the weekend that caused over \$5-thousand' worth of damage. Arcata Fire Crews arrived at a home on Beverly Drive in Sunny Brae shortly before 9 pm Saturday. Crews saw that the fire had spread to the roof and ceiling of the residence. After tapping out, the blaze investigators determined that the chimney pipe system failed, which caused heat to build up and ignite the roof. Fire crews say that the smoke alarms saved not only the family's lives but also helped minimize the damage done to the home.

A ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony for the city of Ukiah's newest sections of the Great Redwood Trail is scheduled for January 31st at the corner of Mason and Clara Streets. The trail now spans one end of the city to the other end.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office on Friday released the video footage of both the in-car video as well as the body cam video of the incident of an Officer Involved Shooting that happened December 28th, near the Dollar General in Clearlake Oaks. The footage was released to maintain transparency and community trust. You can view the footage on the Lake County Sheriff's website under the tab "Use of Force."

After serving the community for 40 years, Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman is retiring. A retirement party and live auction benefiting the Mendocino County Sheriff Search and Rescue will be held on February 1st from 4 pm until 10 pm. Limited Dinner tickets for 4-6 pm are \$25, and Dance only tickets 6-10 pm are \$10. There will be live music performed by Double Standyrd. The headlining auction item is the last ever "Dinner at the Jail." The event will be at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds Carl Purdy Hall in Ukiah. The auction will be led by both Sheriff Allman and State Senator Mike McGuire. The Master of Ceremonies is Spencer Brewer. The event will be by Dora's Café, Crash and Slam Dunk Pizza, and a BBQ dinner will be provided by the Search and Rescue volunteers.

A Fort Bragg teenage girl who went missing in San Francisco on Friday was found safe and sound on Sunday. According to the girl's grandmother, Jamie Buckner said that 13-year-old Sienna Carter is okay and that the man they found her with is in police custody. Carter vanished on Friday from the UCSF's Madison Clinic for Pediatric Diabetes after she went outside to "get some air" and never returned. No further information is available at this time.

The US Coast Guard had to rescue three members of a commercial fishing boat damaged near the South Jetty of Humboldt Bay over the weekend. Officials say they received a distress call from the 35-foot fishing vessel shortly after 8:15 pm. The boat had lost propulsion near the South Jetty. The Coast Guard found all three crew members had managed to make it to the beach. One of the crew members was injured with a severe laceration and had to be airlifted to the hospital, no word on their condition. Officials say the fishing vessel was in poor condition up against waves as high as 8 to 10 feet.

A woman is facing attempted murder charges after trying to shoot and kill her 84-year-old roommate in Bridgeville. Officials received a report of shots fired at a home on Highway 36 on Saturday. The one who called 911 was the older adult who claims that his roommate shot him. Officers eventually tracked down the suspect Kelly Teach. She is facing charges of attempted murder, elder abuse likely to cause great bodily harm or death, battery on a peace officer and resisting a peace officer. She has been booked at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility; her bail is set at \$500,000

The Ukiah Planning Commission will consider a permit for a new cannabis dispensary hoping to occupy a building in downtown on N State Street at its Wednesday meeting. The company Element 7 Ukiah has applied for a major use permit to operate a dispensary and also be a non-volatile cannabis manufacturing facility.

The Arcata Police are searching for the suspect or suspects who have been vandalizing the Downtown area with graffiti since New Year's Day. Investigators have identified 13 new incidents of graffiti. In the past few months, officials say that the tagging of private, public property including handrails, sidewalks, walls, poles, and signs. Those who are caught could be charged with a misdemeanor or felony, depending upon the total of property damaged.

A Fairfield appliance recycler is being fined for mishandling and burning hazardous waste for years at three Northern California locations. Freon Free will have to pay over one-hundred-and-forty-five-thousand dollars under an agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, according to a news release on Sunday. The company reportedly burned hazardous waste without a permit and didn't train staff properly.

A 22-year-old man is behind bars after being found with the 13-year-old Fort Bragg girl who vanished from the U-C-S-F Madison Clinic for Pediatric Diabetes in Mission Bay on Friday afternoon. Sienna Carter was located due to the help of folks who had seen her picture circulated on social media and in the news. NBC Bay Area reports that a Mendocino County group called Cold Case Mendocino posted on its website Saturday that its members spoke to a witness who said the girl may have met up with a man when she was in San Francisco. At this time the man's identity has not been released and officials say that they are declining any further comment at this time.

Humboldt County will be installing several new stop signs at various intersections at this time no time frame has been set as to when they will be installed.

01/07/20

A Eureka woman is in jail for trying to flee from police and ended up crashing into a home. Officers say on Friday that they tried to pull over 28-year-old Daisy Leen for suspicion of driving under the influence while she was at the intersection of Harris and Harrison. Leen took off and was driving very erratically, which led her to crash into a home. Luckily the house was unoccupied. She is charged with evading, DUI, driving without a license, and probation violation.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has arrested two men after a two-month-long investigation of someone stealing truckloads of lumber from a company near Korb. The Green Diamond Resource Company on Bald Mountain Road contacted deputies back in early November about two men who they even captured on surveillance video several times loading up truck loads of lumber and firewood. 39-year-old Nicholas Cringle and 44-year-old Corey Holsinger had cut the lock on the gate to steal approximately 30 madrone trees. Throughout the investigation, deputies learned the two had sold 5.5 cords of the stolen wood to a local lumber company. The two have a laundry list of charges. Cringle is charged with conspiracy, grand theft, and trespassing, to name a few. Holsinger is charged with conspiracy, trespassing, vehicle theft, possession of a stolen vehicle, and possession of a controlled substance.

Eureka Police arrested a man who brought a machete to a fight. Officials say that last Friday, shortly before 10 pm, they received reports of a fight outside of a bar on 5th street. 39-year-old Phelix Roby allegedly struck another man with a machete after being asked to leave the bar. The victim chased Roby down the road and punched him in the face. Both had moderate injuries. He is charged with resisting arrest, assault with a deadly weapon, and probation violation.

The City of Arcata is one of 12 California communities selected to participate in the BOOST Pilot Program, a partnership of the Institute for Local Government and the California Strategic Growth Council. The program's goal is to help local governments build capacity to develop and secure funds for projects that would provide access to affordable housing, clean air and water, transportation, and economic opportunities in alignment with the state's equity and environmental goals. The BOOST pilot program is funded through a one-million-dollar appropriation by the state legislature in the Budget Act of 2018 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. It is a statewide initiative that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to use to reduce greenhouse gases, improving public health, and strengthening the economy.

State officials are considering a ban on gas-powered gardening equipment like lawnmowers and leaf blowers saying they are worse than emissions from cars. So far, 60 cities across the state already have some ban on gas-powered lawn tools, like Mill Valley, Sonoma, Berkeley, and the North Bay. According to the Chronicle, state lawmakers have lawn equipment in their crosshairs due to impending federal standards for ozone regulation.

The Wine Country Cannasseurs are going back before the Ukiah City Council this week to try once again to gain a permit to open a cannabis microbusiness and dispensary on East Smith Street. The City Council will be examining their request along with another cannabis dispensary that is wanting to open on North State Street Wednesday at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers.

A house fire on ridge top near Upper Lake kept firefighters busy on Saturday night. Officials got word of the blaze at a two-story home on a ridge near Bambi Lane around 8 pm. When crews from the Northshore Fire Department arrived, they saw that the fire has pretty much had spread throughout the home. To extinguish the blaze crews utilized three fire engines, a water tender, the all-volunteer Northshore Fire District Support team, and Lakeport Fire even sent out three of their engines. Firefighters were still on the scene tapping out hot spots until almost 1 am Sunday and some fire crews had to return later that day to extinguish smoldering hot spots. The good news is that the family that lives there was not home at the time, and no one was injured. Fire investigators are still working to pinpoint the cause, which is difficult due to the structure being deemed 'unsafe to investigate' at this time.

PG&E is warning folks about several scams currently going on. One is called spoofed calling, where the number of the caller is disguised. This is a common scam where the victim is threatened to rectify the issue immediately whether it be payment or giving them personal information. Other scams being reported to PG&E are people claiming to be from the company to sell a service of a solar evaluation this scam is to either sell a product, gain access to your home and your personal information. Officials with Pacific Gas and Energy want to remind everyone that they will never ask for your financial information over the phone. PG&E says that the con-artists are even sending suspicious emails that look like they are a bill, but they are not. If you have received something like this email Scamreporting. If you think some has tried to scam you, you are urged to report it by calling 1-833-500 -SCAM, that is 1-833-500-7226.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office is looking to hire 'Deputy II' positions. A Deputy II performs a variety of peace officer duties under general supervision. The jobs expected to be performed are the protection of life and property, providing information and assistance to the public, crime prevention and suppression, criminal investigation, enforcement of laws and ordinances and case preparation and testimony. A Deputy II is an experienced class in that it is distinguished from Sheriff's Sergeant in that the latter supervises and trains deputies as well as performs their law enforcement duties. According to the press release, candidates must have 18 months of sworn law enforcement experience equivalent to the county's class of Deputy Sheriff I. Those who are interested can apply online or email their resume and cover letter to personnel.

California Highway Patrol say they recovered a stolen vehicle from Fort Bragg Tuesday in Harris a rural area in Southeast Humboldt County. State troopers arrested John Hill, who was still driving the stolen 2010 Dodge

01/08/20 Challenger.

This flu season is already setting a tragic record in the Northeast for children. According to the CDC, 27 kids in the US have died this flu season, that is the highest number of pediatric influenza deaths since the CDC started keeping records over 17 years ago. The flu got a later start in California, but it has jumped from low to moderate levels within a two weeks period. Last season California never reached the high level, it instead peaked in mid-February at moderate level. Doctors in the Northeast say they are seeing unusually high numbers of confirmed cases for this time of the year. Health officials say the best way to prevent contracting the flu is getting the vaccine. Even if you do happen to come down with the flu, the shot lessens the severity.

The University of San Francisco police identified the man suspected of kidnapping a Fort Bragg teen who faces eighteen felonies and one misdemeanor. 21-year-old King John Baylon is behind bars and faces who faces charges of kidnapping, human trafficking involving a minor, and lewd acts with a child. Both he and the girl were found in San Francisco over the weekend by law enforcement. Officials still haven't said how he and the girl met up or where they had been hiding out. He will be arraigned later this week.

Arcata Recreation will soon be hosting a free Infant Massage Course through Arcata Play Center. The 5-week course meets once a week and will cover topics ranging from the benefits of touch, infant development, bonding and attachment, and infant-parent communication. The class will meet on Mondays starting January 13th through February 10th from 1 pm until 2:30 pm at the D Street Neighborhood Center. This is a free course, but you must pre-register through the Arcata Play Center.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and the EOD team had to investigate a suspicious package found near a stop sign Tuesday in McKinleyville. Central between Airport and Grange were closed as the bomb squad checked to see if the package was in fact explosive. Shortly before 4pm the Sheriff's Office tweeted. 'scene clear. No explosive items located.

Newly appointed Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall took the reins last month after Sherriff Tom Allman retired. Kendall has spent 30 years working for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. He was first hired back in 1990 to work at the county jail. He worked his way up the ranks from deputy sheriff, to inspections director and patrol sergeant and undersheriff. Sheriff Kendall will be focusing on the opioid epidemic, mail theft that results in identity theft and cannabis enforcement.

The Lakeport City Council approved updates to their utilities billing administrative policy at Tuesday's meeting. The changes were made to better serve the customers of the city's water, sewer and garbage services. Officials said that the policy was first adopted back in 2004 and was last updated in 2017 and due to the passing of Senate Bill 998 which goes into effect in February, the policy had to be updated. SB 998 requires the city to adopt a policy to service discontinuances, provide specific notice to delinquent customers, take certain steps before terminating water service and offer customers an alternative payment plan before discounting service for nonpayment. In addition, there is now a limit on the amount the city can charge for reconnection fees and it also waives interest payments once a year for certain customers. City officials say that the new legislation changes their ability to shut water off from 30 days to 60 days. Overall SB 998 was created to show transparency and to protect low-income households who cannot afford payments.

The city of Arcata wants everyone in the community to work hard to go green in 2020. City officials have a few suggestions that will be fairly easy, barely an inconvenience on your current lifestyle. First, resolve to stop buying drinks in plastic bottles. Second, try to use reusable containers like water bottles, coffee mugs, shopping bags, and keep them nearby, especially if you are often on the go. Third, try and drive less, take a walk, a tandem bike ride, a scooter, or use public transportation. And no bike? No problem Zagster bikes are rentable bicycles set up in several locations across the city. Fourth, plan your meals. Create a shopping list and stick to it. And finally, stop wasting energy. Turn off the lights when you leave a room, unplug fixtures and appliances when not in use and consider installing a smart programmable thermostat to help you decrease your electric bill. The city has more information on how to live a greener lifestyle on its website at [cityofarcata-dot-org](http://cityofarcata-dot-org).



A Lake County woman is on life support and not expected to survive a single-car collision that happened over the weekend in Cobb near Highway 175. Hospital officials have told the California Highway Patrol that 31-year-old Angelina Guillen's injuries are so severe her chance of survival is slim. Guillen (gill-in) was headed toward Middletown Sunday afternoon shortly after 3 pm when she lost control of her SUV around a right curve in the road just before the fork with Highway 29. State Troopers say that she sheared the utility pole, slammed into a large oak tree, then overturned. She was airlifted to the hospital; her dog broke several bones in the crash was transported to a veterinary clinic.

A Mendocino County Correctional sergeant that tased a handcuffed, mental-ill inmate back in 2017 has been demoted. According to witnesses, the man was not a threat at the time, and the tasing caused him to stop breathing. The Ukiah daily journal reports that documents show that sergeant Zohar Zaied cut a deal with the Sheriff's Office to accept a demotion to correctional deputy. The victim, Travis Benevich, who went into cardiac arrest due to the tasing, received a settlement of 180-thousand dollars from the county in order not to sue.

01/09/20

Over 130 folks participated in the "First Day Hike" on New Year's Day in the Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Every New Year's Day state parks in all 50 states host First Day Hikes to get people to come out to visit the parks and to get some exercise. Park officials say that for the third straight year, the Anderson Marsh Hike has had the largest attendance of hikers across the state.

If you are a smoker and are sincerely looking to kick the habit, the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley is offering a free six-week stop smoking course. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:30 until 8 pm from January 14th through February 18th. The program will cover topics like identifying smoking triggers, recognizing symptoms of withdrawal and recovery, understanding tobacco addiction, how to develop healthy coping mechanisms, and how to maintain a lifestyle change and prevent relapsing. According to the CDC, 70% of current smokers want to quit, and more than half of them tried last year. Kicking the habit is difficult; it could take eight to ten serious attempts before you are successful. The class is open to all ages, and there is no requirement that you have to quit smoking while taking the course. The class is free, but you need to call to register at 463-7391.

Two were injured after crashing a stolen SUV while fleeing police on Monday night. CHP says that they received a tip about a stolen SUV headed out of Covelo. State troopers located the vehicle headed westbound on SR 162, approaching the 101. Troopers tried to pull them over but, but the driver sped up and even ran the stop sign at the 101. Shortly after, the SUV lost control flipped and hit the guardrail, then coming to rest upside down. The driver Ursula Fallis had to be extricated from the vehicle and airlifted to the hospital. The passenger Daniel Batten was found near the crash scene; he was hospitalized with moderate injuries.

The Lakeport City Council started its first meeting of the year approving the assistant city manager classification 5-0. The funding for this for half a year is \$85-thousand, and it was already earmarked in this year's budget. The proposed salary for the assistant city manager would be between \$84-hundred and 10-thousand two hundred and ninety dollars a month. The next step in the process is to make the job a permanent position and appoint someone to fill it. According to Lake County News, the only candidate actively pursuing the assistant city manager position is Community Development Director Kevin Ingram, who has pretty much been doing the job now for a while. The other item they touched on was revising the old master pay schedule and replacing it with a new one; this was approved unanimously.

The City of Clearlake announced the passing of a former city clerk Sharon Goode on New Year's Day. Mayor Russell Cremer spoke about Sharon and said that she was one of the founding pillars of our city government and a valuable staff member who served the city for twenty-four years, the city sends its condolences to her family during this difficult time.

Cal Fire has put the burning of vegetation above the Ukiah Valley on hold due to the ground, and debris is still too wet. Officials announced earlier this week that the controlled burn on the east side of the Ukiah Valley, the third part of a joint project with Cal Fire, the city of Ukiah and Mendocino County, called the Fuels Reduction Project. Officials say until the weather dries out, the project is on hold.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office responded Wednesday afternoon to reports of a suspicious device found in the yard of a home in the Humboldt Hill area. The Sheriff's Office E-O-D Team was dispatched shortly after 1 pm to a house on the 23-hundred block of Parkwood Boulevard. California Highway Patrol temporarily closed off Humboldt Hill Road between Kipling Drive and Parkwood Boulevard. The team dispatched an E-O-D robot, which found that the device did indeed contain explosive materials. The device was neutralized and taken by deputies for further investigation. The Sheriff's Office is asking anyone with any information on this incident to contact them.

The Humboldt County Drug Task Force searched a room inside the Bear River Casino Motel and seized drugs, guns, and cash. County Drug Task Force agents receive a tip that 36-year-old Casey Menanno and Brittney Thompson were dealing large amounts of heroin from the motel room. The two were taken into custody without incident. Agents after a search of both their vehicle and room recovered a loaded .40 caliber handgun, 33 pounds of weed, almost a pound of what is believed to be heroin, digital scales, and \$5,000 cash. The two have been charged with possession with intent to sell narcotics and weapons violations.

The California Highway Patrol has the numbers of how many DUI arrests they made over the Holidays. The maximum enforcement period from December 23rd through January 1st is when law enforcement agencies are out specifically looking for impaired drivers, as well as other violations like seat belts and distracted driving. According to the Lake County News, the Clear Lake area office had three DUI arrests and no fatality crashes. CHP during those 30 hours reports that they made were 491 DUI arrests and that three fatality crashes claimed the lives of 10 people. Some good news is that arrests and crashes were lower this year compared to 2018, where there were over 11-hundred DUI arrests, and 25 people died in fatality crashes.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit will be burning in the State Response Area surrounding the Ukiah Valley off and on this month. The control burns will be done on days where the weather and air quality are permissible. The Ukiah area control burns are part of the CAL FIRE Priority Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project. The burns will begin at 10 am and wrap up at 6 pm daily. This is the third part of the joint project will cover over 26-thousand five hundred and 41 acres in the Ukiah area; and will include regions South of Lake Mendocino, the communities of El Dorado, Vichy Springs, Talmage, the West Ukiah hills, the Turtle Creek drainage, Ukiah Valley and the base of Cow Mountain. During the control burns, smoke and flames may be visible.

The California Highway Patrol will be offering a free 'Start Smart' traffic safety course on January 30th. The class is for those who are soon-to-be-licensed, newly licensed, teenage drivers, and the parent and or guardian of those adolescent drivers. The course will be held at the Clear Lake Area CHP office on Live Oak Drive in Kelseyville from 5:30-7:30 pm. According to CHP, a teen is killed in a traffic accident every four hours nationwide, that comes out to over 1,870 teens every year. Estimated 184-thousand teens are injured in crashes. The 'Start Smart' program will be focusing collision statistics, teen driver and passenger behaviors, graduated driver's license laws, cultural changes in today's society, and the need for more parental involvement in a teen's driving experience. The class aims to cover topics in an innovative way that will capture the attention of both the teen and parents to create a lasting experience.

01/10/20

The Westside Community Park Committee is looking to fill one vacancy on its board of directors. The committee is a registered non-profit created to develop the Westside Community Park alongside the city of Lakeport. The board of directors and committee members are all volunteers. Those looking to apply for the position should contact the W-C-P-C- Chairman Director Dennis Rollins by phone or email at [special-d-5@sbcglobal-dot-net](mailto:special-d-5@sbcglobal-dot-net). Some of the projects WCPC is currently working on is developing a horse park off of Highway 175 and improving the parking lot at the Jane Barnes Field.

More than 30 new apartments are ready for folks to move in on North Main Street in Ukiah. The developer is waiting to break ground on eight new single-family homes approved for West Gobbi Street, which is part of the Gobbi Commons project that will build market-rate homes on 200 block of West Gobbi Street. As of this week, the property management says they have leased nearly half of the apartments.

A Clearlake Police officer was honored Thursday night during the City Council meeting, for saving a man's life. Officer Chris Kelleher was awarded a certificate and a life-saving award medal that he can wear on his uniform. Back on December 2nd, Officer Kelleher was patrolling along Walnut Avenue when he noticed a man unconscious on the ground with no pulse, due to a possible drug overdose. He contacted dispatch for an ambulance and started CPR on the victim until he got a pulse. By the time EMTs arrived, Officer Kelleher had managed to get the man breathing and his heart pumping again. Kelleher has been with the department for four years.

A group of Del Norte High School seniors will be offered a new \$4,000 Humboldt First Scholarship for locals who enroll as freshmen. In addition to the scholarship, they will also be able to start classes next fall- even if they haven't applied yet. The Humboldt First Scholarship is guaranteed to students graduating from high schools in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, and Trinity counties who enroll at HSU in the Fall of 2020. The scholarship will be renewed every year up to four years as long as the student is achieving academically. The scholarship was created by 250-thousand dollars in donations.

The Six Rivers National Forest will be hosting a public meeting next Wednesday in Eureka to get input on the proposed Six Rivers Fire & Fuels Project. The proposal is a series of controlled vegetative burns and fire management across the forest, targeting woodland, shrub fields, and small trees less than 12 inches in diameter. The meeting will be at the Forest Supervisor's Office on Bayshore Way from 5 pm until 7 pm. Forest staff, in addition to the public meeting, will also be holding workshops to discuss the project in length.

An early morning fire in Crescent City is being investigated as suspicious. The fire broke out shortly before 4 am at a double-wide on Cummins Road. Fire crews arrived to find the mobile home engulfed in flames as well as a sedan in the yard. Additional units were called in from Pelican Bay, Fort Dick Volunteer Fire Department, Del Norte County Sheriff deputies, and dispatch as well as crews from Pacific Power and Light. Officials learned that the trailer has been vacant for several years as well as reports of transient activity in the vicinity. No one was injured; no other structures suffered any damage thanks to the efforts of the 15 volunteer firefighters who extinguished the blaze.

The city of Clearlake was introduced to the new Public Works Director on Thursday night at the city council meeting. Dale Goodman is said to have extensive public service experience, he served as director of Public Works in American Fork in Utah, Willows, California and St Helens in Oregon. The Lake County News reports that Goodman has been at the forefront of many valuable projects, including flood recovery, capital improvement, and regulatory compliance programs, for jurisdictions in several states. Goodman served in the US Army and the National Security Agency as an intelligence analyst. He has an MBA from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the State of New York in Albany.

The Mental Health Division of the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services will be hosting a few public meetings to discuss the Mental Health Services Act, also known as M-H-S-A. Officials are hoping to inform the public about the three-year-plan, and also get feedback from the community. The Humboldt County Department of Health says that gathering input is vital to drafting the plan that will outline the county's M-H-S-A-funded programs from 2020 through 2023. Back in 2004, voters passed Prop 63 known as M-H-S-A, which placed a 1% tax on personal incomes that exceeds one million dollars to fund the development and expansion of mental health services for all ages. The first meeting will be this Tuesday at the Jefferson Community Center in Eureka on B street from noon until 1:30 pm. The second meeting is for Friday the 24th from noon until 1:30 pm at the Blue Lake Community Resource Center on Greenwood Avenue. Lunch will be served at this meeting, so you will need to RSVP by Wednesday the 22nd.

The Six Rivers National Forest will be hosting a public meeting next Wednesday in Eureka to get input on the proposed Six Rivers Fire & Fuels Project. The proposal is a series of controlled vegetative burns and fire management across the forest, targeting woodland, shrub fields, and small trees less than 12 inches in diameter. The meeting will be at the Forest Supervisor's Office on Bayshore Way from 5 pm until 7 pm. Forest staff, in addition to the public meeting, will also be holding workshops to discuss the project in length.

Congressman Jared Huffman and a colleague from Mississippi have introduced a bill so fisheries can receive disaster relief quicker. Huffman and Congressman Steven Palazzo teamed up for the Fishery Failures: Urgently Needed Disaster Declarations Act — or the Fishery FUNDD Act, to expedite money coming from the federal government with a time limit the government would get to respond to a fishery disaster request and how long after that it can take to distribute money disbursed after a disaster. Right now fishing communities have to wait to get money from the fed until after fish populations decline, during closed seasons, or if they suffer losses due to

01/13/20 other disruptions

Some new board officers have been chosen for the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District. Just after the new year at a forum. Some had been waiting on potential developments regarding the Labor and Delivery department, but instead the new board President announced the board fired their legal counsel and hired a new one who have specialized experience in hospital affiliation. As you may recall the hospital is going thru a potential merger with Adventist Health. There have been two meetings already since the new year. The president of Adventist was at one of the meetings.

Something of a Green New Deal in Calif as the Governor announces new programs including a loan program for recycling, low-carbon transportation and climate-smart agriculture projects. The so-called Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund is part of Newsom's new budget for low-interest lending for small businesses and organizations with green ideas but for one reason or another may not be able to compete for venture capital funding. This on top of the state's many public climate projects.

First 5 Lake Commission has a new leader. Lake County District 4 Supervisor Tina Scott has been elected as the new Chairperson for the Commission. The position requires her to attend all meetings and has general supervision over the business and property of the Commission. They also execute all formal documents on behalf of the Commission along with its Executive Director. The new Vice Chair is Denise Pomeroy, the Director of Health Services for the County. Their next meeting is Feb. 12th at the Lower Lake Town Hall.

A couple of events in Lake County with Congressman Mike Thompson. Next Tuesday, Thompson will host "Coffee with our Congressman" at the Grinders Steep Coffee Shop at noon, in Middletown. Later, he's hosting a town hall at the Tom Aiken Community Hall at Kelseyville High at 5:30. His office encourages all constituents of the Fifth Congressional District to attend. His district covers all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties. An area of the Clear Lake's wetlands is being purchased thanks to a state grant. Lake Co News reports a \$675,000 grant was approved by the state Wildlife Conservation Board to pay for the 200-acre Wright property. The Land Trust has reportedly been eyeing the land for a decade and a half. The news site reports the grant money comes from various sources including the Habitat Conservation Fund and other bond measures that voters had previously approved to preserve and protect California's natural resources.

The Governor's trying to help bring prescription drug prices down, so his office has announced a program to start the state's own generic drug label. The first law of its kind in the nation would allow the state to negotiate directly with drug manufacturers for select prescriptions. Apparently it's not the only plan the Governor's considering to bring down the cost of health care for Californians. His office released part of the proposal last week, but no cost estimates have been released to the public. The governor also working to get more rebates from drug manufacturers.

A community action plan had a group of Mendocino County residents talking. The group along with leaders from District 3 were at New Paradigm College last week discussing future land use and development rules after the Board of Supervisors asked for a general plan update last fall. That involves the county's eight "local area plans" which are folded into the general plan which is state mandated. The meeting at New Paradigm was hosted by the chair of the Western Region Town Hall (a District 3 municipal advisory council) and featured the chair of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council who noted getting the community action plan implemented as part of the general plan is not guaranteed. She says they'll do everything they can to make that happen though.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors diving into the issue with the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. Lake Co news reports the board's going to consider responding to a letter the City of Clearlake sent to the county last year about the performance of the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office when it comes to selling tax-defaulted properties, which they say is lagging. The city's calling out Treasurer-Tax Collector Barbara Ringen for not selling more tax defaulted properties which are supposedly worth millions at auction. The Lakeport City Council sent a letter of support regarding the issue too.

A car crash between three cars in the Blue Lakes area leaves one person seriously injured. The crash yesterday afternoon on Highway 20 happened in front of Blue Lakes Lodge. Lake Co News reports Northshore Fire and Lakeport Fire were on the scene. Two cars were blocking one of the lanes. The news site reported dispatch saying one of the vehicles had been reported prior to the crash as possibly being driven by an impaired driver. Four other people in the accident were uninjured.

A man from Sacramento's been arrested for a DUI after being seen driving on 3 tires. Police say Martin Diaz Barajas Jr. was seen driving on 11th St in Lakeport with major right front end damage and a missing tire so he was pulled over. When cops contacted him, they say he said he had just crashed off the 11th Street exit from Highway 29 and he knew his tire was missing but thought he could make it home, driving on the rim. He went thru field sobriety tests and was arrested. His blood alcohol content was measured at .085%. He's charged with DUI and was reportedly released from jail already.

A woman in Fort Bragg has been arrested after reports of a fight between a man and woman over the weekend. Deputies got a call Saturday afternoon and found the couple had an argument that escalated. They say the woman, Kelie Adams-Penrod, physically assaulted the man, using her hands and a large wooden stick. They say the man had minor visible injuries consistent with the assault. Adams-Penrod was arrested after deputies found she was on active summary probation with a term she obey all laws. She's booked on Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Felony Domestic Battery and a Misdemeanor Violation of Probation. She was held on \$30,000.00 bail.

Because of fires the last three years, the state's in dire need of more firefighters. The latest state budget proposed by the Gov. Newsom has the state hiring as many as 677 new full-time staffers for Cal Fire, over the next five years. That's nearly 11% more than the 6,280 full-timers already working for the agency. There are also almost 2,400 Cal Fire positions that are seasonal employees. Of all of those, there would be about 440 new front line firefighters. The new hires are expected to be approved by the legislature. The budget is expected to have a \$5.6 billion surplus. They say more staff at Cal Fire will allow more pre-positioning of staff in coming years.

The Alder Stop bus stop has been opened by the Mendocino Transit Authority. Last Thursday the stop and shelter in Willits opened, replacing the old Brown's Corner bus stop on the 101. It's situated right behind Lumberjack restaurant in the Evergreen Shopping Center. The MTA general manager says it's safer, since it's off the main highway and it's convenient for nearby seniors.

A man lying on the sidewalk in Ukiah had to have NARCAN administered. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports a deputy on routine patrol was flagged down because of a car blocking traffic. The deputy had medical responders come to the scene after assessing the man was unresponsive and probably overdosed on opiates. The deputy gave the man NARCAN and he immediately responded and started waking up. Medical responders took him to Ukiah Valley Medical Center for further treatment. Narcan nasal spray is used as a sort of antidote to reverse opioid overdoses.

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Mendocino County staffers working on new ways to get a business license. The Board of Supervisors directed staff to study small business regulations in Lake County to see if there are businesses that need licensing to protect the public and how much any of that would cost. Staff are expected to report back to Supervisors with a full report, but it wasn't noted when the county might make changes. The Daily Journal reports Supervisor Ted Williams said there were roadblocks due to Planning and Building Service inspections that take too long, not the cost of the license. Supervisor John Haschak was concerned about timelines for new businesses getting approved.

A fire in Ukiah has burned a building with a bunch of cars inside. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reports the fire on Saturday afternoon was stopped before it spread, but no other info was released.

A phone scam reported by PG&E from crooks threatening to turn your power off if you don't pay money. The utility company says they got several reports the last few weeks of scammers calling about past due utility bills, then told the person on the other end needed to pay right away with a cash card. PG&E's Security Investigator for the North Bay and North Coast says when someone asks for a gift or cash card, that should raise a red flag. The scammers reportedly trying to hit folks in Marin, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, and Humboldt Counties and have a caller ID that says either "PG& E" or "Pacific Gas & Electric".

The green light has been given to support marijuana gardens in the county exclusion area just outside Clearlake. The city council has approved a policy first brought up last fall. The City Manager says there are amendments in the Lake County Code related to growing cannabis which includes these so called exclusion areas. The code was recently amended to include cannabis growing in a city's sphere of influence if whoever is applying for the grow gets a letter of support from the city. The policy being proposed allows the city manager to have the authority to issue the letters.

A special meeting of the Lakeport Planning Commission so new leaders can be appointed, and a new member introduced. The meeting this Thursday will feature the swearing-in of newly appointed Planning Commissioner Jeff Warrenburg. The yearly election of officers will also happen too. Lake Co News reports they may also discuss a possible amendment to a couple of Zoning Ordinances regarding portable sandwich board signs in the Central Business zoning district.

The Governor's office looking at new ways to stop homelessness with possible penalties for cities and counties who don't take action. The Governor's task force on homelessness is reportedly considering a law to force municipalities, and the state to find housing for people without. The governor on a statewide tour to bring attention to the homelessness issue. Newsom is urging lawmakers to get something on the November ballot to force cities and counties to take action on homelessness for the more than 150,000 people without homes, or these municipalities could face legal action. Of course that would first have to pass both houses of the legislature. Homeless advocates say more specifics are needed.

The Willits City Council taking action on multiple water projects. The city's engineering project manager introduced a measure for a professional services contract for work on the City's Groundwater Improvement Project. The city's been looking to improve its groundwater infrastructure for a while and at the same time meet public demand if there's an issue with surface supply like due to drought or damage from natural disasters. A grant application is reported to be the first step to start the first phase of the project which is set to start this summer. The engineer working on the project reminds there was a shortage of water in Willits back in 2014 during the five year drought in Calif.

The federal government continues negotiating with Pacific Gas & Electric after catastrophic fires led to the utility company's bankruptcy. A \$13.5 billion dollar settlement for wildfire losses has been agreed to. Now reports surface that a top FEMA official is none too happy about the settlement agreement which puts the FED in the position of having to get money paid back another way. The FED paid out nearly \$4 billion for victims of fires started by PG&E equipment from 2015-18. FEMA reportedly looking to get as much as \$200 million from fire victims if they can't get it from the bankruptcy settlement, but is now reportedly looking to revise the settlement with the bankruptcy judge to avoid that. Some fire victims say FEMA deserves nothing.

A blast of winter coming our way with snow accumulations expected in Lake County. The winter storm watch for most of Northern Calif. will of course hit the highest elevations hardest. The weather system expected to hit tomorrow into Friday with snow of up to three feet in the higher elevations, but snow is expected to drop in Lake County and in the high peaks in the Mendocino National Forest we could get up to 20 inches. Probably more like a regular old rainstorm for most of us, but Cobb and Mt. St. Helena are expected to get sleet.

Since the primary has moved up in Calif. we're seeing several candidate statements emerging. Those running for supervisor, city council or other local offices have begun announcing their candidacies. The Mendocino Voice reports local businessman James Green is running for supervisor in the First District. Also making an announcement, the former mayor of Ukiah, Maureen "Mo" Mulheren. She's filed to run for the seat in the 2nd Supervisorial District. She's endorsed by the retired Sheriff Tom Allman, and others. She announced about a year ago, while she was still the mayor.



The Pine Mountain Lookout in the Upper Lake District of the Mendocino National Forest is finally reopening after the Ranch Fire. The lookout was closed in the summer of 2018 to protect it from the massive fire. It was not damaged, but the area around the lookout had to be cleared of downed trees and other debris. They've also opened reservations for the lookout which will be open from the end of April through November. You can get to the lookout by car, but you have to bring all of your own supplies. The lookout's been there for almost 100 years, opening back in 1933. It was used for fire detection until 1942. It has 180-degree views of the surrounding area at an elevation of 4,400 feet.

As noted in our earlier newscast, quite the weather system coming thru. And in Lake Tahoe, a wind gust of more than 130 mph was recorded. So be careful on roads throughout Northern Calif. Chains or snow tires are required on Interstate 80 in the Sierras and many other highways in that area as the winter storm with loads of snow barrels thru the area. There's a winter storm watch Thursday so if you were planning on heading out for a skit trip, you're in luck, as as much as 2 feet of snow is expected to dump in the the highest elevations. The National Weather Service says it recorded a 137 mph wind gust at Alpine Meadows near Tahoe City this morning at 3:45 a.m. And at nearby Squaw Valley, a recorded gust of 124 mph.

The legislature has tossed the idea of a ban on medically unnecessary treatments for young kids born with ambiguous or conflicting genitalia until they turn 6. Lawmakers putting forth the bill to ban any procedure for an intersex child 6 years of age or younger unless it's found it's medically necessary by the Medical Board of California. But now most of the lawmakers who were on a panel for the idea said they thought it was too broad and wondered if kids at 6 could even understand enough to help parents make a decision. State Senator Bill Dodd says his granddaughter's almost 5, and says he thinks it's not a decision she could make for herself.

The governor is looking at a purchase of a nearly 51,000-acre cattle ranch above Livermore that is situated in four counties. The land to be the state's newest park is featured in the latest budget by Governor Newsom, which was introduced last week. \$20 million will go towards buying the land after 17 lawmakers egged him on, sending a letter to him last week, nudging him towards the N3 Cattle Company Ranch. It's listed at more than \$70 million. The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Lands are kicking in \$30 million. The ranch is on land in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties where they all intersect. Much of it in the Alameda Creek watershed which provides drinking water for the Bay Area and

01/15/20 California residents.

Several thousand dollars provided by Sutter Lakeside Hospital to Westside Community Park to help Lake County residents stay in shape. \$7,000 will help add exercise equipment to the fitness trail running along the Rotary and Jane Barnes athletic fields and make the trail extend further into the western portion of the park. The hospital had donated \$2,000 in the past, and that was spent buying the first three pieces of trailside exercise equipment, installed in 2016 by the Kiwanis Club of Lakeport.

A man from Willits has been killed in a car crash on Hwy 20. The California Highway Patrol reports on the Sunday afternoon crash of a 1991 Toyota Tacoma pickup near the Blue Lakes Lodge. They say the driver swerved into oncoming traffic, spun out, then continued rolling and hit another car head on. A third car behind him with two passengers also crashed. The man from Willits did not have on a seat belt and was seriously injured then taken to the hospital where he later died. The CHP says they suspect alcohol was a factor in the crash.

A no parking zone is being considered in Ukiah on West Stephenson. The City Council is expected to take up the matter at their meeting today after the street was converted to two way for better traffic circulation downtown. City staff notes to the council say there are issues when School Street is closed for the holiday ice rink, the weekly Farmers Market and other special events. The Public Works dept. removed an on street parking space to allow for better traffic flow during the holidays, which is apparently something now being considered.

Another lawsuit against PG&E. This time Sonoma County says it's retained a lawyer to take on a lawsuit against the utility company for the Kincadee fire which cost the county as much as \$620 million. The county reportedly going after money from PG&E in its bankruptcy case where the utility company is still negotiating ways to pay off liabilities from wildfires, including the 2018 Camp fire and the 2017 October firestorm that killed several people and destroyed thousands of homes in Sonoma County. The lawsuit also seeks to get compensation for a series of public safety power shutoffs this past October and November.

Two women reportedly shot by a man in Clearlake are in critical condition. Clearlake police are looking for the alleged shooter, 30-year-old Gabriel Cardenas Diaz. They say Diaz went into a home to confront his girlfriend and shot a handgun several times, hitting three women inside. One of them who was pregnant and is listed in critical condition. A third woman was treated and released from the hospital. Cops say there were several people inside at the time of the shooting, including children.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors considering what to do about the letter it received from the City of Clearlake about tax-defaulted properties the city thinks should have been sold. The City Manager brought the issue to the board last fall and the City Council ended up sending letters to several state agencies including the controller's office, the California Board of Equalization and the California Attorney General's Office. The city asking for Lake County Treasurer-Tax Collector Barbara Ringen to be investigated. She and a staffer at the Board meeting yesterday along with the city manager and other city leaders. There's apparently as much as \$9 million worth of delinquent properties in the city. Ringen says she will work hard to solve the issues and the Board asked her to make it happen and promised resources to help.

Profit being blamed for a rise in health care costs in the State. The Department of Managed Care released a report showing the premium costs from insurance companies. Back in 2018, they doubled their profits, and then some. Profit noted in the report at as much as \$2.75 billion over \$1.01 billion the year before. The report shows there weren't many factors that drove up the price of healthcare for residents, besides profit. But taxes and fees were up there too, and prescription drugs were also a contributing factor, but not by that much. Taxes and fees were up 30 percent over a year before and prescription meds were up under 5 percent.

A new Assistant City Manager has been named in Lakeport. Lake Co News reports it was only a week after the City Council approved the job classification that the new staff position was filled. The first ever assistant city manager job is being filled by the Community Development Director Kevin Ingram. He's been in his current position about five years. Last year the City Council approved of the new position, which is touted as a training opportunity for those interested in being the city manager sometime in the future. Ingram will be responsible for supporting the city manager on major projects; be the point of contact with elected officials; develop and/or help implement city-wide goals; support boards, commissions and community groups; and fill in as the city manager if they're unable to work or are away.

A vegetation management project is planned in the burn scar of the Ranch Fire. The US Forest Service reports they'll be putting down herbicide and pulling invasive species, but they first are seeking public comment before next Tuesday, January 21st. The project is on 54 acres at 15 different sites in Glenn, Colusa, and Lake counties. The 2018 Ranch Fire caused invasive species to spread over 15 sites. The mostly young plants will be sprayed with herbicide and the older plants will be pulled mechanically. There won't be any herbicide applied in the Snow Mountain Wilderness and no aerial application of herbicide is proposed.

A proposal by an Assembly woman from Arleta would require school aged kids to learn all about climate change. Assemblymember Luz Rivas says her bill would call for climate change education as a requirement for students from 1st grade to 6th and there would also be a graduation requirement for students in grades 7 through 12, starting 2025. If it passes and the governor signs it into law, schools would have to add it to their curriculum no later than the 2021-22 school year.

A special meeting planned by the Ukiah City Council on land-use policies and planning. The city's Community Development Director says it'll cover the future of the city's development in the valley and annexation. At the last City Council meeting, it was noted the policies could become part of the general plan, so there will be some recommendations for the council at the meeting. Later the Planning Commission and the City Council will have a joint meeting on the General Plan. But for tonight's meeting, the so-called "Plan for the Future" will touch on the goals for the Ukiah Valley Area Plan, the city staying with the current sphere of influence and the annexation plan for ten years for unincorporated areas of the city. The meeting tonight at

01/16/20 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

A new report says we had the warmest year ever for oceans. The journal Advances in Atmospheric Sciences released the report called "Record-Setting Ocean Warmth Continued in 2019". It showed record heat over the last five years, calling the ocean heating irrefutable, and said it was key to the Earth's energy imbalance. It goes on to say an excess of greenhouse gases in the air traps more heat inside the climate system and drives global warming. The report also said the 2014-16 marine heatwave devastated kelp forests, and in Northern Calif. we lost more than 90% of our kelp in one year. The report also says kelp is being replaced by urchin barrens and says Sunflower stars are extinct locally after they got sea star wasting syndrome.

PG&E is warning about the current storm being a doozy, so they're sending crews out to Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt Counties to respond to outages quickly. A spokesperson for the utility company says fast moving wind and rain, along with snow in higher elevations is expected. They say they're fully staffed with equipment ready. They will also have generators in rural areas and if power fails, they'll also activate Operations Emergency Centers in Eureka, Ukiah, Clearlake, Fort Bragg and Fortuna.

A shout out to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex by Sherwood Valley Casino. The casino announced they contacted the Royal Household of The Duke and Duchess, Prince Harry and Meghan to partner up in business and philanthropy. Casino representatives say it's no joke. They heard Megan was talking to Disney about charitable work, so the Casino's General Manager said they wanted to make an offer as others had been doing after the Royal couple said they were stepping back from official duties and wanted to also make their own money. The Casino team actually contacted the couple with an offer. They say they think Mendocino County is a great place for their new home... we shall see.

Congressmembers Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman have publicly come out for the impeachment of President Trump. The two voted to forward the articles of impeachment against the President to the Senate. Thompson says there's no doubt President Trump committed crimes and should be removed from office for trying to work with a foreign government to be re-elected. Huffman says he believes there's growing pressure on senators. There only needs to be four Republican senators voting for witnesses to be brought forward.

The state's considering raising taxes on big companies in alignment with how much the highest paid executives make opposed to what other employees make. Democratic state Senator Nancy Skinner's bill has bigger tax penalties for companies with bigger pay gaps between leaders and other employees. The bill has passed out of the first committee and would only affect companies with at least \$10 million of taxable income. Disney is one of the companies that could be impacted. Its CEO made more than \$65 million in 2018, more than 1,400 times the median pay of a regular Disney employee.

It's finally happening, the new seawall at Library Park in Lakeport's being rebuilt. Starting in just a couple weeks the project that was supposed to start last month gets underway. The City Public Works Director told the city council last month the contractor was getting some of the supplies needed by last week, but there was a delay until the end of January. You may recall the cinder block seawall crumbled in winter storms in February of 2017. A company out of Oregon is doing the work at about \$800,000 dollars. The city had estimated it would cost about a million.

Beefed up patrols looking for parking violators in Lakeport. Police say they'll be enforcing parking rules downtown after multiple complaints. The police department says there's been a lack of staff resources for some time so they've not been able to enforce the two hour parking rule for a while. But since there have been complaints downtown and around the courthouse affecting local businesses, police will be handing out more parking violations. They also may hire a parking enforcement company to hand out tickets so businesses don't lose money because of parking violations.

Six women from Lake County are receiving cash rewards as part of the Live Your Dream awards from the Soroptimist Club. The cash awards between \$500 to \$2,000 for the women who are the primary wage earners in their families and are going to school to continue to grow and improve their lives. It's happening at the Aroma Café at the Woodland Community College campus in Clearlake noon on February 13th. Lunch will be provided for \$20. The Soroptimist Club mission's to improve the lives of women and girls with programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

A man with a gun reported at East Lake Elementary in Clearlake Oaks turned out not to be true, but a couple of unrelated arrests were made nearby. The Lake County Sheriff's Office says they got a call to the school yesterday with reports a man was pointing a gun at kids on the campus. Students told school staffers about the gun, and the school resource officer was called. A lockdown was initiated and several law enforcement teams descended on the area. A woman was arrested for a warrant and a man near the school laying in thick brush with an ax and meth in his possession was also arrested.

The Governor is restarting the massive underground water tunnel project. The Governor's office says the San Joaquin Delta project is on, issuing a Notice of Preparation for the project. But it won't be overnight, it's just the first of many steps to be taken for the environmental review. A similar project under Governor Brown featuring twin tunnels was stopped by Governor Newsom. The new project will be one tunnel and will carry less water but serve the same purpose. The cost projection has not been released yet. The director of the Calif. Dept. of Water Resources says the project is to help "safeguard a vital source of affordable water for millions of Californians".

PG&E's troubles not over as a member of the State Assembly is calling for a thorough review of the California Public Utilities Commission to see if state regulators were lax in their oversight of the troubled utility. Assemblyman Adam Gray wants the review to see if the state enabled neglect by Pacific Gas & Electric which ended up triggering wildfires, the ensuing bankruptcy and public safety power shutoffs. The utility company has submitted its plan to emerge from bankruptcy, but it has to be approved by the Commission and the judge in the case by the end of June to take part in a fund the legislature created to help state utility companies recover losses if their equipment's found responsible for starting more devastating fires. Gray wants the state auditor to investigate the commission who he says knew about PG&E's outdated infrastructure.

A bunch of cars stuck in Lake County as the first real winter storm barrels thru the North Bay. Several cars were stuck on Highway 175 between Hopland and Lakeport this morning awaiting snowplows to clear the road. Caltrans was also there and did not need to close the road. There were also reports of heavy snow and poor visibility on the 101 this morning thru the Ridgewood area north of Ukiah. The National Weather Service reported snow overnight below 1,000 feet in areas of southern Mendocino County. The Press Democrat reports downed trees throughout the North Coast and some spotty power outages were reported by PG&E.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office has announced one of their officers graduated from the FBI's investigations academy. Captain Norm Taylor completed the training in Quantico, Virginia in December. The FBI Training Academy is where they train their new special agents and intelligence analysts. The Sheriff's Dept. says it's the world's premiere law enforcement executive development and leadership program, known globally for its academic excellence in communication, leadership, and fitness training. Taylor was one of 258 men and women from 49 states, the District of Columbia, 37 countries, four military organizations, and 6 federal civilian organizations that took part.

A new labor law regarding independent contractors has been blocked in court. The new law started New Year's Day and puts up obstacles for companies who classify workers as independent contractors instead of employees who can get certain benefits like workers compensation. But the judge granted the California Trucking Association a preliminary injunction after already putting a restraining order in place. The judge ruled the state had encroached on Congress' territory. There are other groups fighting the new law too, like freelance writers and photographers, who also filed suit. The law was apparently intended to come down on ride-share companies like Uber, Lyft and food delivery companies like DoorDash and Postmates,

01/17/20 who are all also challenging the law.

There's a new chief in town. In Fort Bragg a veteran officer, Lt. John Naulty has been named the interim police chief. Naulty starts his new job February 3rd after Chief Fabian Lizarraga announced his retirement last month. Naulty has worked in Fort Bragg and Brentwood, but mostly here in Fort Bragg. He retired in March of 2014 after Mendocino County Sheriff's Lt. Ricky Del Fiorentino was shot and killed. Naulty was responsible for killing the gunman in a shootout. Naulty got commendations for his heroic actions in the incident.

A Fort Bragg Lifeguard has been honored by the new Sheriff in Mendocino County. The Medal of Valor awarded to Lifeguard Ean Miller. At his ceremony was his Chief, other first responders were on hand too. Miller's been a State Parks lifeguard the last three years. His United States Lifesaving Association Medal of Valor was for a couple of rescues, but they were both in the same three week period in 2018. One of those in dark, stormy waters off Westport's rocky cliffs, the other in the razor-edged coves and sea caves of Mendocino Bay. He calls them just rescues.

Fees going up in Ukiah as the City Council gives the go-ahead for higher fees for building permits and other services. There was one dissenting vote, Steve Scalmanini who said he likes allowing the public to participate in the process and would also support any appeals from the public, so they don't have to pay anything, calling the whole thing an insult. Staff says it's the first time fees were raised since 2003. Staff notes that even though charges were almost tripling in some cases, they still will not get all of their money back for staff time. There was public comment before the vote, with some residents objecting on fees for permits for solar panels on homes.

PG&E is being told by the bankruptcy judge in its case to hire more tree trimmers so fees for customers can go down. The Judge William Alsup told the company he wants to see more proactive measures taken. The statements after the company admitted about 22,000 trees in its service territory might still be creating fire hazards and that could be why they had to have public safety power shutoffs. PG&E also has not ruled out doing it again while working on upgrades of their aging electrical grid. The judge says he thinks the trees not being trimmed is the reason the company has to conduct intentional power downs.

Police in Lakeport looking for help from the public to get find a missing man. Police say 55 year old Walter Stuart, Jr. has not been since he visited family December 19th in Solano County. Police are working with the Fairfield Police Department to find the man who they say was in contact with family as Christmas got closer, but they haven't heard from him since. Police say they had reports he might have returned to Lake County, including in Clearlake and Lakeport. He's described as being a white man with brown hair and blue eyes, 6 feet tall, 160 pounds.

The Board of Trustees for the Yuba Community College District have chosen new officers. The President was re-elected, trustee, Richard Teagarden will be the leader for 2020. He represents Trustee Area 1 including part of Yuba County and includes Marysville Joint Unified School District. He was the superintendent of Yuba County's Office of Education and the principal and teacher in the Marysville Joint Unified School District. They also re-elected David Wheeler as the vice president of the Board.

A man accused of arson has been found competent to stand trial. Matthew Miravalle in court for his Review of Doctors' Report hearing. It comes after his lawyer said she didn't think he was mentally competent to stand trial last year. The court ordered the proceedings to be suspended until Miravalle could be examined. Two doctors evaluated the man from Clearlake Oaks accused of starting three wildfires. The doctors found him to be competent so the criminal proceedings against him can start. His preliminary hearing is set for February 13th. The fires last fall in Clearlake Oaks. He admitted he started them and was reportedly seen in the area of the most recent fire.

A man from Santa Rosa busted in Lake County on a weapons charge has pleaded no contest. The nolo charge admitted by John Brott who was charged with being a prohibited person from carrying a firearm. Other charges against him were dismissed and his case has been referred to the probation department for a sentencing recommendation. He was stopped while driving a car not registered to him and during a search of the vehicle, a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun was found next to the driver seat. A jury trial was set for earlier this month and canceled. He's set for sentencing January 27th.

Friends of the Willits Skatepark are looking for support getting lights, bathrooms and shade installed there. They want people who support those plans to show up at next Tuesday night's meeting of the Willits City Council to make their feelings known. New plans for the park have been talked about for a while and skating enthusiasts say their only way to get improvements is to let city officials know.

Three Lake County arts organizations will share a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The money, along with an equal local matching amount, will go to promoting the county as a destination for the arts. The groups involved are the Lake County Arts Consortium, the Lake County Rural Arts Initiative, and Middletown Arts. Promotional ideas include a video highlighting art in the county and an online calendar showcasing local creative events.

One person is dead and one other is seriously injured in an avalanche in Placer County near Lake Tahoe. The county sheriff's office says a search is underway for others who are missing and may have been trapped when the snow gave way. The avalanche occurred on an advanced trail at the Alpine Meadows resort. The rest of the resort is open and officials say there is currently no threat to any other ski runs there. Several inches of snow has fallen in that area in the past 24 hours.

Tuition and fees for schools in the University of California System may be going up over the next five years. Reports say regents will talk about two proposals that would bring in more money to pay for financial aid and other school needs. One plan would see an annual increase tied to the inflation rate, while another would freeze rates for current students but increase them successively for each new class. School officials say more resident undergraduate students with financial need would get help under either scenario. Outgoing UC president Janet Napolitano says the system needs to decide on a plan now so students who accept admission this spring will know what they can expect to pay.

More than a dozen states including Calif. have filed a lawsuit against the federal government for trying to block food stamps for nearly 700,000 Americans. The Calif. Atty. General Xavier Becerra says nobody should have to choose between a hot meal and paying their rent. The states and Washington, D.C., along with New York City say the Trump administration did not properly follow the required steps to put the wide ranging rules in place. It's not the first time Calif. has sued the Trump Administration, there are 65 lawsuits in all.

01/20/20

Lawmakers are trying to reform the Cannabis industry's tax code. Assemblyman Rob Bonta has introduced a bill to "suspend the state's cultivation tax and reduce the excise tax from 15% to 11% over 3 years". Bonta says it's to stop the black market by reducing the difference in pricing from illegal sales to the legal market. He says the illicit market is still undercutting the legal market and businesses complying with state regulations. His bill would temporarily reduce the tax burden on licensed businesses. There are reports that only 10% of the 1,700 cannabis dispensaries in Los Angeles are properly licensed.

Congressman Jared Huffman along with another 38 Members of Congress from both parties sent a letter to FEMA to drop a claim against PG&E and its settlement to pay survivors of the 2017 and 2018 Northern California wildfires. The multi-billion dollar fund agreed to by the utility company so thousands still without a permanent home can rebuild. Those signing including Mike Thompson say they think FEMA shouldn't be trying to recoup any money as its owed first and foremost to survivors still trying to rebuild their lives. They say it could undermine FEMA's reputation as an honest and fair partner.

A community meeting is set by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee in Laytonville. The community meeting is an update and for the public to be able to share any recommendations they have for the Ad Hoc Committee on possible changes to the County's Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance. The board had asked the Committee to review the Ordinance and report back with possible revisions to streamline certain requirements. The meeting is Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at Harwood Hall.

[The new Mendocino County census website has been launched. 'Mendocino](#)

At a meeting of the Lakeport City Council, they'll discuss applying for state grant money to improve park bathrooms. The meeting tomorrow night at City Hall where the Public Works Director is set to ask the council to adopt a resolution so the City Manager can send in a grant application to the Division of Boating and Waterways for just over \$184,000 to pay to replace the bathrooms at the First and Third street boat ramp. They also want a public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant program and to discuss an application which asks for up to \$3,500,000. The meeting will also cover storms and the recent public safety power shutoffs.



An Air Force serviceman who ran away from court-martial proceedings in Las Vegas is dead. The Mendocino County Sheriff's office reportedly got into a standoff with a 32 year old serviceman after the Air Force requested help. They say he shot himself outside a car after a chase Sunday morning that ended in Redwood Valley. The court martial was taking place last Friday at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. Before the airman was sentenced, he ran from authorities, so a warrant was issued for his arrest. The CHP tried nabbing him outside Ukiah, but he wouldn't stop. Air Force Special Agents tried finding him on Reeves Canyon Road, where they located his Jeep Wrangler. Deputies got back up with a drone, which saw a person inside the vehicle. Then a single shot was heard. A SWAT team came out and found the man on a hill near the jeep dead from a gunshot out of a high-powered rifle.

(UPDATE)

On 01-20-2020 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Division was able to contact the wanted service member's legal next of kin and notify them of the his death.

The wanted service member's identity is releasable to the public and he has been identified as Kevin A. Larson (34 year-old male from Las Vegas, Nevada).

A special meeting of the Lake County Board of Supervisors and department heads has been called. On Wednesday morning the meeting on revenue generation and economic development for future sustainability. It's happening Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the Lower Lake Town Hall on Main St.

An accident has taken the life of a man trying to cross Highway 101. The man hit at Burke Hill was declared dead on the scene near Ukiah. Paramedics tried CPR to no avail. The man reportedly waving his arms as he tried walking across the northbound lane. A truck hit him going at least 65 mph.

A special event planned in Covelo two years after a local woman disappeared after a fight with her ex-boyfriend. The event for Khadijah Britton a day after the two year anniversary of her disappearance. There have been searches continuing and flyers and banners up across the area where she vanished. There's also a reward of more than \$100,000 for information on where she may be and that could lead to an arrest. The event at the Rec Center at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 8th with guest speakers, food, a silent auction, and more. The young woman last seen being shoved into a car at gunpoint by her ex, Negie Fallis, who has been sent to prison on a felony firearm possession charge in a separate case connected to Britton.

A woman in Calpella has been arrested after reports of a domestic violence incident. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports getting a call, but say they didn't notice any obvious disturbance. Then about fifteen minutes later, they got a call to Ukiah Valley Medical Center to look into a domestic violence dispute in the Calpella area and found a 27 year old man and 13 year old girl being treated. The man said he was dating 22 year old Jessica Pingree who was attacking him and when the 13 year old tried to intervene, she was also attacked. So Pingree was arrested for domestic violence battery and willful cruelty to a child and booked on \$25,000.00 bail.

A man in Boonville's been arrested after reports of a domestic violence incident. Mendocino Deputies responded December 23rd after a woman says she was attacked by her husband Lamberto Magnaperez,. She also told deputies the man had been abusing her for two years. Deputies spoke to Magnaperez and say they developed probable cause to believe Magnaperez's wife. He's charged with domestic violence battery and was booked into Mendocino County Jail where he was held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A young woman in Ukiah's been arrested after reports a man was seen banging on someone's front door, holding a gun. Mendocino deputies say they spoke to 18 year old Natalie Carrascosantana who they say told them there was no disturbance and she didn't see anyone with a gun. Her boyfriend was found inside and gave deputies a different story. They ended up arresting Carrascosantana for domestic violence battery against her boyfriend. Deputies found a gun in the home, but say there was no evidence it was used in the incident. Carrascosantana was being held on \$25,000.00 bail.

Another step closer to annexing part of South Main Street in Lakeport. Lake Co News reports the Lake Local Area Formation Commission approved moving forward with an application to annex a part of South Main. It comes after the Lakeport City Council had a special meeting regarding the application for 50 parcels on 136 acres along South Main Street south of the city. There had been a dispute over the land, between the county and the city of Lakeport over tax sharing. But the city decided to agree with the Local Area Formation Commission's proposal and the Board of Supervisors approved the process. But the Commission still has to settle who gets what out of any tax revenue. The Commission is charged with overseeing development and to protect natural resources and agricultural lands. The next meeting of the Commission is March 18th in Lakeport.

01/21/20

An update on the Hope Center project in Clearlake will reportedly include asking the city for money. The Council meets Thursday on the matter after Councilman Russell Perdock asked for a discussion with a request for \$500,000 from the city for the project. The Clearlake Planning Commission approved the use permit to convert an old office building into a medical support and residential care facility. That would be for people who cannot recover alone from an illness or injury, like a rehab facility. So the City Council will be getting an update this week on the project and possible funding to finish it. The council will also consider cannabis related violations of the city's ordinance. The council is also going to be in closed session with lawyers regarding a lawsuit involving PG&E.

A load of milk spilled into Clearlake after a big rig crashes. It happened Sunday morning on Highway 20 at Cora Drive outside of Lucerne. The CHP says the big rig went partially into the lake, but the driver got out safely. The semi's load of milk starting gushing into the lake. Firefighters rushed to the scene with the Northshore Dive Team. One person had minor injuries but they were flown by a REACH air ambulance to a trauma center to be checked out. Lake Co News reports Lake County Environmental Health, Lake County Water Resources and the Lake County Office of Emergency Services were all informed about the incident.

The federal government now investigating too after a bunch of middle-schoolers at Yosemite National Park got sick. About ten students visiting the park had what might be Norovirus, sick with stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea and fever. But that's not all, as many as 170 visitors and employees also got sick after the New Year. Now the National Park Service and other health care agencies are investigating how it spread. The concession company is working with federal officials to clean and disinfect the food service facilities and the Ahwahnee hotel. The students seemed to fall ill three days into their five day trip, after dining in Curry Village. Reports of week old yogurt served, eggs that tasted bad, fruit and Jell-O sharing utensils.

A backup on the 101 north of Leggett after a minivan crashed a half mile south of the Peg House. The van went off the highway and traffic slowed to a crawl as emergency vehicles made their way to the scene. Some passersby say they turned around to spot the accident better and saw a man inside the badly damaged van who couldn't get out. They say the windshield was cracked, so they peeled it back and helped the man unlock the door of the van so he could get out. He said he passed out for a time but was said to be okay. Apparently nobody else stopped to make sure the man was ok.

California said to be behind in where it should be to reach self-imposed climate change goals. A new report released last week by Energy Innovation shows many other places are looking to Calif. to make their own changes after the U-S pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement. Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger set goals so Calif. would lower carbon emissions by 2020 to below 1990 levels, which has been done. Also the state had planned to get at least 33% of its electricity from solar, wind and other renewable energy and that's done too. But Gov. Brown signed a law so the state would further reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. The report says the state will have to double emissions reductions to get there.

A new report from the Little Lake Fire District says they have a slew of new volunteers. The so-called "Chief's Report" says they got 835 calls last year, two or three calls a day and it looks like this year is already falling in line with those numbers. The Chief Chris Wilkes also thanked volunteers in his report. He also stresses there's not enough Emergency Medical Service help though which means more volunteers are being called. The report also says they've been training during the New Year, with first aid, CPR and their yearly Chief's Academy, which has 30 volunteer participants. They got a new fire duty rig too. A couple of volunteers were promoted to Fire Captain, Eli Owen and Tim Caldwell.

A tuition hike could be in the offing at University of California campuses. Administrators reportedly looking at raising tuition for the first time since 2017 for in-state undergraduates. The nearly 3% hike or \$348 is based on inflation, so it could go up more over the following four years. Administrators also looking at freezing costs for those already enrolled but increase it instead for freshman by \$606 as they enter. The UC Board of Regents should take up the two plans over the next week. They may vote on either idea or hold off until lawmakers set aside more money for the university system than the Gov. allowed in his recent budget proposal.

A commonly used over the counter drug could soon be listed as a carcinogen in Calif. Acetaminophen, known outside the U.S. as paracetamol or here in the states as Tylenol which is used to treat pain and fevers. It's also in more than 600 prescription and over-the-counter meds for adults and kids, besides Tylenol, it's in Excedrin, Sudafed, Robitussin and Theraflu. But a state law says consumers need to be warned if there's a chemical that's known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. The FDA says if Calif. moves ahead with the warning it would be false and misleading and illegal under federal law. It's also not listed with the International Agency for Research on Cancer because it's a weak link. Calif. scientists appointed by the Governor's office can add chemicals to the list, and in 2011 acetaminophen was voted as a "high priority" for consideration. A meeting on the matter set for the spring after the public comment period closes next week.

01/22/20 3 people have been killed in snow related accidents in Lake Tahoe. So much wet snow, the first death in an avalanche at Alpine Meadows last weekend. Another man, from Carson Valley was killed in a snowmobile accident at Blue Lakes, then the third, Christopher Nicholson was injured on the expert run at Heavenly Mountain Resort near South Lake Tahoe. He was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead.

The Clearlake City Council considering transportation for the most needy. The council heard from the Lake Links manager from Lake Transit Authority earlier this month about the need for special transportation options in Lake County. The manager told the council there are major needs for the large vulnerable population in Lake County, but there are major limitations he says. They are already making hundreds of trips per year for the homeless and thousands a year for those who otherwise couldn't get to their destinations. They've also received an \$800,000 federal grant for mobility services and have applied for a second grant. They have other options too, including a reimbursement program and a new program called Medi-Links that runs between Lake County and Santa Rosa for medical appointments.

The Lakeport City Council applying for a grant to finish the repairs needed on the two bathrooms at Library Park that still need replacing. The Public Works director asking the city council to approve a \$184,000 grant application to the state which will pay without a city match. The director says they haven't applied for grants for a while from the Division of Boating and Waterways which helps. So the council voted unanimously to approve applying for the grant.

More cops on the streets of Lakeport. The police chief says they're in a mandatory training today so they'll be more patrols on the streets. Chief Brad Rasmussen says Clearlake police are also coming over the help with the training. Lake Co News reports police, sheriff and California Highway Patrol help each other out during trainings. And likewise, Lakeport cops have helped Clearlake in the past.

State Senators Bill Dodd and Mike McGuire have drafted legislation regarding disaster insurance claims after devastating wildfires the last few years. Dodd introduced the bill yesterday which he says will help move residential insurance claims thru in a smoother way for disaster victims. Dodd says insurance companies need to act so living expenses for temporary housing and other costs get to victims faster. He also says they shouldn't have to be inundated filling out forms. The legislation is also sponsored by the state Insurance Commissioner. It expands what it means to get additional living expenses for homeowner losses in a state of emergency.

The meet and greet with Congressman Mike Thompson was a success even in the rain. More than two dozen showed up yesterday at Grinders Steep. There was standing room only at the event. He spoke about the impeachment, calling his approval, a sad vote. He also touched on healthcare, the national debt, and gun control. All in response to constituents comments and questions. Thompson noted that the House has been passing legislation, including expanded background checks on gun sales, but that the senate is sitting back, not acting. He says members of the public need to call, write and email their representatives repeatedly to show support and help get legislation passed.

A former city councilmember in Ukiah says she's running to be on the Board of Supervisors. Mari Rodin is also a grant writer and former member of the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission. She says some of her ideas include development by the city center and downtown, helping with the homelessness issue with programs of outreach and intervention, adding that Measure B passing can help with that. She calls homelessness a humanitarian issue. She's a supporter of recreational marijuana sales and wants the government to support Fire Safe Councils.

It's still an emergency. That word coming down from the Ukiah City Council calling the repairs needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant after flooding nearly a year ago an emergency. The Public Works director at the council meeting last week saying the ponds at the plant are still in "somewhat horrifying condition", adding they can't stop the flows until it's drier out. There is work scheduled once there's a dry spell of a week or more. The ponds damaged last February during heavy rains. The work to be done at a cost of about \$320-thousand dollars.

A local non-profit bringing more family physicians to Mendocino county says it's moving into a donor advised fund. Family Medicine Education for Mendocino County announced the transition and its management by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. The president of the fund says they've inspired more than \$350,000 in donations from sponsorships, matching funds, and ticket sales to Rural Health Rocks. Their original goal was for \$100,000. The organization started in 2015 in response to a nationwide shortage of physicians in rural areas.

Uber in Calif. tests a new feature where drivers get to decide how much they want to charge. The test is only at three airports in Calif. and something the company says is in response to a new law regarding independent contractors. So the drivers at the Santa Barbara, Sacramento and Palm Springs airports will have the ability to come up with fares based on a multiple of Uber's base, time and distance rates. Then those who need a ride are paired with a driver that offers the lowest rate. Drivers who want to make more will then have a longer waiting period. The company says it's a way for them to keep the work flowing for tens of thousands of California drivers.

A vote to raise tuition at the University of California has been tabled for now. The UC President's office released a statement yesterday saying it was moving the vote by the UC Board of Regents on the two tuition proposals but didn't say when it would take place. It comes after the governor took issue with the proposed hikes, either for new students or current ones, that would keep going up each year they attend. The Governor's office also released a statement saying he put money into higher education in last year's budget, and was planning the same for next year's budget. So he thinks the proposed tuition increase are unwarranted.

### [The Mendocino County homeless count is happening next week. The Homeless](#)

A sexually violent predator who goes by the name of Pirate is reportedly back on the streets of Redding. 40 year old Daniel Selovich, who's picture is posted on the Record Bee newspaper's website got out of prison in Nevada last year. He was arrested for raping a disabled woman in a motel room in 2004. He's easily identified because of a tattoo that practically covers his face. He was released from prison in 2015 and ended up in Alaska where he was then accused of holding a woman against her will, torturing and sexually assaulting her. But she died of a drug overdose and the charges were dropped. DNA in that case linked him to an attack in Las Vegas for which he pleaded guilty and got five years, but was released last year. A concerned Alaskan posted pictures on Facebook and he ended up back in Redding.

PG&E is testing the Humboldt Bay power plant to see if it can generate enough energy to handle outages. The low load emission tests at King Salmon in the case of a power outage to see if the utility company can get permits in the case of an actual outage. It comes after the public safety power shutoffs last fall. The utility company reportedly working with Redwood Coast Energy Authority to get the plant to be able to supply power by the middle of this year, or before the next fire season. The old nuclear plant deactivated in the late 2000s. The Record Bee newspaper reports the plant now produces gas-powered energy, operating at only partial capacity.

The Willits City Council back at the drawing board on Mobile Vending machines. The Ad Hoc committee met last Thursday and about 20 people were there speaking up on the city's Mobile Vending Ordinance. The City Council can still hear input from the public, decide to change the wording, hear more changes, then officially enact it or amend it. The Ad Hoc Committee can also still get recommendations from City Staff too before the ordinance is sent back to the City Council for approval. The vending machines could be with special events, sponsored for a day by a local business or be out multiple days. There's an ordinance in place for about seven years that says food trucks/vendors are not allowed within a block of Commercial and Main streets, except for special events. One more meeting will happen before the City Council takes up the matter again.

The American Pickers are headed back to Calif and filming in Willits. Apparently the Chamber of Commerce got a call by a casting person on the antique hunting documentary series. Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz will be here in March to "recycle and rescue forgotten relics." The show further saying the Pickers hope to "meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items". The show is interested in leads if you know of a local hidden treasure, you can get in touch with them directly: provide your name, phone number, and a location and description of the collection with photos to [americanpickers@cineflix.com](mailto:americanpickers@cineflix.com), or call 855-OLD-RUST.

The Gov. says no to the PG&E deal to get out of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Gov. Gavin Newsom says he wants the judge managing the case to scrap Pacific Gas and Electric's plan to get out of bankruptcy. He's also still saying there should be a way instead for the utility company to be a government-run operation. The governor's office reportedly sending a letter to the court about PG&E's plan as the company tries to make a June deadline to emerge from the bankruptcy after devastating wildfires, mostly blamed on the utility's equipment. If the plan is approved, the company can draw money out of a special insurance fund the state created so utility companies can recoup possible future losses after wildfire emergencies.

01/23/19

Alternative energy at the forefront for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The board has approved a partnership with Sonoma County Energy and Sustainability on multiple energy projects in Mendocino County buildings. That agency is under Sonoma County's General Services Department coming up with energy management programs. Mendocino County began work on sustainability projects about a year ago, auditing what could be changed. No word on what it will cost for the audits and if it pays to make fixes.

No anatoxin has been found in Blue Lakes after positive tests last month. It was very low levels of the toxin with caution signs going up in the area. Those signs have been taken down after more tests were taken the middle of last month and again on January 7th showing no signs at all of the toxin. Because two tests came back negative usual activity in the area can begin again. The Clear Lake cyanobacteria monitoring program is managed by the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Elem Indian Colony. They pay for the routine tests at the Upper Blue Lakes.

Another \$400,000 dollars has been approved to close down the old landfill in Ukiah. The City Council has approved the expenditure to close the old landfill at the end of Vichy Springs Road. The Daily Journal reports the Public Works Director reminding the City Council last week that the landfill was at capacity in the late 90's. A firm was hired then to close the landfill, that being a cap and gas collection system. City staff have been working ever since on officially closing the landfill. The Public Works Director says they are still about \$1 million short of the needed funds and they're waiting comments on the final environmental impact review.

An admitted gang member going to prison after waiving his right to a jury trial in a couple of felony cases. The Mendocino County DA reports 26 year old Gabriel Diego was then convicted of attempted witness intimidation and admitted a special allegation of trying to intimidate a Good Samaritan witness on behalf of the Sureno criminal street gang in Fort Bragg. He was also found guilty of inflicting traumatic injury on the mother of his children, another felony, and for domestic violence while out of jail when his attempted witness intimidation case was pending. In yet a third case, he's guilty of witness tampering related to the others. The case has been forwarded for a sentencing recommendation to the Probation Department. He's due back in court for judgement and sentencing February 19th.

More transparency as the city of Ukiah makes website fixes so residents can see where tax dollars are being spent on street repairs. The Deputy City Manager told the City Council the website could have been more user friendly so staff members were making fixes regarding Measure Y dollars, which pay for street repairs. You can navigate now to a tab called Residents where there are contact numbers so you can report potholes, graffiti, non-working traffic signals and road hazards. The page explains to residents just how the city decides on that streets to fix with maps. There's also a summary of how the money is spent which is also going to be put into a flier and delivered with future utility bills.

A meeting in Lake County on the eradication of an invasive plant called hydrilla. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is having a town hall regarding the statewide Hydrilla Eradication Project next Wednesday at Lakeport City Hall. The invasive aquatic plant can form large mats disrupting oxygen levels in Clear Lake. The state's been working to get rid of the plant with success in 15 counties. But Lake County is currently impacted by an infestation. The state looking to help get Lake County to 100% eradication. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is taking public comment on a new environmental impact report until Feb. 16th. The meeting next Wednesday starts at 3:30pm.

A man in Northern Calif. reportedly scamming his insurance company connected to the massive Carr Fire. The fire burned through Redding in July of 2018. Now Stephen Cortopassi is facing nine felony counts of insurance fraud, scamming himself into a payout of \$43,000 after he claimed the fire destroyed his home and vehicles. But he was apparently already getting more than \$1 million for legally insured property after losing his home and four cars. He reportedly bought a new insurance policy the day after one of his cars was destroyed, and liability on the others, all worth \$43,060.

PG&E and other utility companies that run public safety power shutoffs could be responsible for lost wages and spoiled food if some lawmakers have their way. The Press Democrat reports State Sen. Scott Weiner of San Francisco has introduced a bill to require investor owned utilities to pay their customers and local governments back some of the costs connected to intentional power outages. The utility companies say it's to protect the public. Massive blackouts were put in place last fall. 2 million customers were in the dark in October, closing schools and businesses and making life a challenge for those using medical devices that can't work without electricity. Weiner's bill would require a utility company's shareholders, not customers, to stash cash in a fund that would be used to reimburse customers within two weeks of a blackout. The California Public Utilities Commission to be in charge of the fund.

A new labor law being considered would take freelance writers and newspaper carriers out of another new labor law already passed that's got lawsuits piling up to stop it. A bill introduced by now Senator Patricia Bates would require workers to be treated as employees not independent contractors. It comes after a law started January 1st that gives salary and benefit protections for those who work as independent contractors. Many are suing against it, including journalists, truck drivers and others. The January 1st law was focused on ride share companies like Uber and Lyft. But many freelancers are now unemployed. Bates says her new bill would help preserve quality journalism.

The Mendocino County Sheriff-Coroner's Office reaching out to the public for help identifying a young man hit by a car and killed. The Sheriff's office says a Hispanic man between 18 and 25 years old was hit on the 101 last Sunday night between ReTech and Ukiah, in Mendocino County. The man is further described as about 5' foot 2" to 5' 5", about 140 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. They've posted pictures of the clothing the young man was wearing to see if anyone could recognize them and help identify who he

01/24/20 is. The pictures are posted on Lake Co News website.



A new Cannabis Program Manager has been named for Mendocino County. Yesterday the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Director announced Megan Dukett as the Acting Cannabis Program Manager. She was the County's Cultural Services Agency Program Administrator for the County Parks and County Museum and before that had worked for different historic sites, museums, and parks as a program manager and has worked for years in project management. In her new position, Dukett will be coordinating the implementation of County policies, getting the Cannabis Program implemented and help the public in the application and permitting process.

After the deadliest fire in history in Calif, Camp Fire survivors are still regularly visiting a food bank. The Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank reports still supplying local food banks and helping survivors impacted by the fire. The food bank reports serving about 1 in 9 residents in both counties as part of an arrangement to help Northern California food banks after a natural disaster. It's all part of a membership with Feeding America which is a national network of food banks. They started right after the Camp Fire in November of 2018, saying they've served more 2.5 million pounds of food to Camp Fire survivors last year.

The Ukiah Valley Sanitation District and City of Ukiah are reportedly working to pay off upgrades made to the Wastewater Treatment Plant back in 2006. The Daily Journal reports the City Manager saying the two are trying to make deals with banks and others and have gotten some offers to lower the interest rates on the debt. The City Manager says the refi won't take down the principal, but the interest rates would be lower, something they've been working to for a few years. A special meeting set for Monday by the Sanitation District on the refinancing of the bonds.

Cybersecurity on the agenda at the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting. Earlier this week the Board heard about ways to protect against cyberattacks and something to be improved over the long-term. Staffers told the board the number of threats last year went up drastically and the attacks will continue. With that staff told the board the county needs more protection. And that more portable and mobile devices have increased the threat levels. So staff told the Board, more trainings are in the works, up-dated tools are needed and more awareness from employees is also needed.

The City of Willits has a bunch of job openings needing to be filled. At the City Council meeting this week, Council members and staffers talked about future goals, but they say it may be limited because there's a lack of qualified staff in place. The City is looking for an assistant engineer, two accountants, some police officers and dispatchers and a new police chief. The City Manager says the city's asking for help from nearby cities for shift coverage until more police officers can be hired. The City has placed all of the jobs on the website with descriptions and requirements.

A man from Lakeport who was arrested last fall for the murder of another man had the charges dropped. Daniel Ford was being held for the murder of Nicky Dale Smith of Lucerne, but the DA announced the charges were dismissed, but that they're still investigating and charges could be brought again in the future. The murder November 23rd and Ford arrested the same day. Another man, Michael Shaffer of Upper Lake was also arrested for the murder. Smith died from blunt force trauma and gunshot wounds. There's still forensic testing going on of evidence found after the murder. The DA says she's dropping the charges against the men because there's not enough evidence, even though they're the prime suspects.

Logging can continue in the Mendocino National Forest. A federal judge said no to an argument by an environmental advocacy group to stop logging on thousands of acres so that more environmental impacts could be studied. But the judge said no to the nonprofit Environmental Protection Information Center's preliminary injunction for the logging on the Ranch Fire burn scar. So the projects can move forward. The Director of the nonprofit told the Record Bee they'll continue trying to get the National Forest to follow the law.

Clearlake city officials still working to get thousands of tax-defaulted properties sold at auction. Lake Co News reports the City Manager gave the City Council an update regarding the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office at the Board of Supervisors' Jan. 14 meeting. At the meeting the Board stood by the Treasurer-Tax Collector Barbara Ringen and said she needed more support. But the City Manager said the discussion at the board meeting was "particularly frustrating." The City Manager says they have a 25 percent rate of all properties being at some level of tax delinquency.

A green light's been given to a new transportation hub in Clearlake. The Lake County Board of Supervisors is supporting the new hub and approved selling a piece of land the city owns to Lake Transit for the project. Last week the board unanimously approved the county property being declared as surplus and to sell part of the surplus land to the Lake County Transit Authority. The Board also approved sending a letter of support for a grant application for the project. A report to the board says there's currently a bus depot in a parking lot between a couple of big box stores, which is unsafe. And that the land to be declared surplus was surveyed and split. Besides the depot, there will be office space for Lake Transit.

The man in a standoff with police last year will be checked out by two doctors to see if he's competent to stand trial. Lake Co News reports 31 year old Francisco Morales-Gomez was arrested last November after a long standoff with police where they say he was holding his 6-year-old son hostage. He was set for trial at the start of the New Year, but his lawyer told the judge he was concerned about Morales-Gomez's mental competence. It all comes after his wife said he pulled a gun at their house. Then Clearlake Police and SWAT teams from Lake County and Sonoma County came to the house and nearby homes were evacuated. Turns out he only had a bb gun. He was charged with false imprisonment of a hostage, false imprisonment by violence, child abuse, and resisting an officer with violence or the threat of violence. He's due back in court February 11th and two

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doctors will report on his mental health. The Lake County Board of Supervisors will present a proclamation after wildfires last year. The board meeting as usual in the morning tomorrow at 9, will present the proclamation to recognize Caltrans District 1 and Konocti Conservation Camp Crews for fighting fires last year. They will also hear an update on the Lake County Tourism Improvement District. The district is a marketing arm for the County, charging a tax that ultimately pays for marketing and to attract visitors to increase tourism with overnight stays. The District first formed in October 2018.

A man from Lakeport has been arrested after being found on Terrace Middle School grounds with drugs and a knife. Police say the man, 34 year old Michael King had no reason to be there Friday morning. The School Resource Officer found him on campus and made contact, seeing a folding knife in his possession. Cops say the Resource Officer found he was illegally in possession of the knife and no actual reason he was there. He was charged with possession of a weapon on school grounds and misdemeanor charges of possession of suspected methamphetamine, possession of about a half pound of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked on \$15,000 bail.

A man from Oklahoma has been arrested after a break in at an auto parts store in Covelo. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports getting a call after the Napa Auto Parts Store alarm went off, they found a broken front window. The business owner told them someone had stolen a Honda Generator from the store. After deputies spoke to witnesses in the area, they found someone had seen a white man carrying a generator nearby. The man identified as Daniel Batten was found in downtown Covelo. Police found the generator and arrested him near Hidden Oaks Convenience Store on burglary and felony vandalism charges and held him on \$15,000.00 bail.

3 major political parties in Mendocino County have reportedly informed the County Elections Office they'll allow those with no party preference to cross over and vote on other ballots in the primary. Last October, on the 135th day before the Presidential Primary, the American Independent Party, the Democratic Party, and the Libertarian Party notified the Secretary of State they'll allow non-affiliated party voters the right to "crossover" to their political ballot. Those voters were sent Vote By Mail info to see if they wanted to choose a certain political party ballot or stay the way they were. They'll take changes until Election Day or the last possible mail in ballot day. If you want to vote on the Republican, Green Party or Peace and Freedom ballot, you have to re-register with that deadline at Feb. 18th.

More water allocations are being put into the 2020 State Water Project. Last Friday the State Department of Water Resources announced the increase to 15 percent of requested supplies, up the 5% initial allocation announced Dec. 2nd. They take a look each month after getting reports on snowpack levels and runoff. Water from Clear Lake runs into Cache Creek then into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a source for the State Water Project. The Dept. of Water Resources Director says after some big storms in December, but not so much this month, the snowpack is below average.

There's a new State Director for the Bureau of Land Management. Last week Karen Mouritsen took the helm of the agency. She joins after being the State Director for the BLM Eastern States Office. There she oversaw BLM lands and minerals in 22 states along and east of the Mississippi River. Kym Kemp reports Mouritsen also worked in the Nation's Capital in key leadership roles including senior level as the BLM Deputy Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management, BLM Budget Officer and BLM liaison to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

A legislator from Calif. looking to get a bill passed regarding wildfire disasters and lost school time. State Senator Bill Dodd has a new bill called the "Disaster Relief Instructional Recovery Program" that would fund summer school to make up for lost days due to fires, other natural disasters and intended blackouts. There would be no requirement for schools or students or teachers to participate, a school district would just choose to opt in. Districts as well as charter schools would be able to join programs if they had lost five or more days of school because of disasters during one school year or as many as 10 instructional days over two out of three consecutive school years. So far this school year because of fires and intentional power shutoffs, 800,000 students were affected with school closures.

Two people in Southern California have reportedly become the third and fourth people in the U.S. to officially be diagnosed with a sometimes deadly virus circulating in China. The Centers for Disease Control says someone traveling from the Chinese city of Wuhan — the heart of the epidemic — tested positive for the Corona virus. One patient in Orange County in isolation in a hospital and said to be in good condition. The second case in LA County. It's also in Washington State and Chicago. Effects like pneumonia, include fever, coughing and wheezing. It's said to be closely related to the deadly SARS and MERS viruses.

Prescription drug costs are part of the Governor's work this year, now including insulin. Word that the governor wanted to start the state's own drug label, now insulin. The Governor's office has not said what the cost differential would be if the state gets to into the business of selling prescription drugs. The Governor says they're currently negotiating ways to lower prices on drugs like insulin, which he says is at the top of the list. The Sacramento Bee newspaper reports about 7.4 million Americans use insulin. There are only three companies controlling the insulin market in the country. The financial analyst for the legislature says lawmakers should be cautious, adding it's not a bad idea, but it could also increase costs over the long term.

The Bureau of Land Management is looking for public input finding lands where the public is allowed to recreate, fish and hunt, but where there's no public access. The BLM will be posting the first priority list online by the middle of March. They'll keep updating it biannually, for ten years. They're asking the public to identify parcels to be included on the list before the end of February. And it's a leap year, so you have until Saturday, February 29th. The agency says it's worked tirelessly with other federal and state agencies, public and private partners to continually find public land access issues proactively. The land has to be managed by the BLM and be on at least 640 contiguous acres with either restricted or no public access.

A ceremony to mark the future Great Redwood Trail is set this week with State Senator Mike McGuire. This Friday the official opening of part of the trail in Ukiah which will be part of a 300 mile long recreational mixed-use trail running from the San Francisco Bay Area to Eureka. When it's done, there is supposed to be bike and foot trails, a long forest like area stretching from Cloverdale, or Willits, to Eureka where the old Northern Railroad used to be. Senator McGuire will be there for the ribbon cutting with Ukiah officials. McGuire sponsored the legislation to make the trail happen. It all

01/28/20 starts at noon at the corner of Clara and Mason Streets.

A new Undersheriff has been named in Mendocino County. After former Sheriff Tom Allman retired, his former Undersheriff Matthew Kendall was promoted to Sheriff. Now Kendall has named Darren Brewster. He's been with the department 30 years, starting at the jail, then he was a lead training officer. His last position before becoming the new undersheriff, was in the major crimes unit. So now he will be running the department including operations over clerical work, jail operations, dispatch and budget and finance. Brewster says they're focusing currently on property crimes, burglary, violent crimes, and getting deputies out on patrol.

The Native American tribe who owns the Graton Resort & Casino says they're donating \$1 million to help renew the SMART train sales tax. They're putting up money to go against the opposition who don't want taxes. The Press Democrat reports the tribe is supporting Measure I, their single largest political contribution since they opened their casino. A developer in Windsor is reportedly giving hundreds of thousands to the opposition, NotSoSmart.org. Others who support the tax renewal have also donated \$125,000 more.

Some illegal marijuana vapes confiscated in LA had additives in them blamed for lung disease. State officials say the illegal vapes taken in raids last month in Southern Calif. were also not as potent as advertised, with just a fraction of the THC noted on their labels. The Calif. Bureau of Cannabis Control's chief says dirty or dangerous vape pens turning up at unlicensed cannabis stores shows consumers should stick to legal retailers instead because they have to meet state requirements. The state ran tests on a random sample of thousands of illegal vapes finding thickening agents and added potentially dangerous and undisclosed additives.

A man accused in the shooting death of another man in Rio Dell has been arrested in North Dakota. Police say Demetrius Coleman has been caught, but another person suspected in Johnny Mack Renfro's murder last August has not been caught, Miriam or Alma Ahumada. Apparently Rio Dell police got word Coleman might be in North Dakota and called local police who found him in the town of New Rockford. He was with a woman who ran from police. Coleman refusing to be extradited back to Calif., so it could take several months to transport him back.

Unemployment numbers staying steady both in the state and in Lake County. Lake Co News reports Lake County's December number was up to 5.1% from the 4.5 percent it was in November. A year ago it was 5.6 percent. California's number at a record low of 3.9 percent where it hasn't been since the late 1980's even though there are a lot more people living here. The nation's unemployment at 3.5 percent for a second month in a row. Mendocino County was at 3.7%, Napa at 2.9%, Sonoma at 2.4%.

A proposal to annex some Middletown Rancheria land has been approved by the Lake Local Area Formation Commission. Lake Co News reports more than 109 acres of land going to the Callayomi County Water District as a safe, reliable source of water. The approval a couple weeks ago at the Commission's meeting. The commission has members of the Board of Supervisors, city councils for Clearlake and Lakeport, special district representatives and members of the public. The news site reports the rancheria property has the Twin Pine Casino and Hotel on it, along with a government administration complex, homes for tribal members and commercial property. Besides the safe drinking water for tribal members there will also be water for fire protection.

Population down in Lake County, but a lot more people in California overall. More than a dozen counties had less people living there, but more than 141,000 moved to the state from July of 2018 to July of 2019. The State Dept. of Finance increased the population number in the state to just under 40 million, 39.96 million. Some of the other counties with a loss in population include Nevada, Shasta, Sierra, and Trinity. The next census is happening this year, and since the last in April of 2010, the state's population has been steadily rising at a yearly rate of about 0.75 percent.

The Governor moving to the next phase of a promise he made while campaigning to end euthanasia of adoptable pets. There's \$50 million set aside in the latest budget for five years for shelters to keep pets alive. About twenty years ago the state passed a law so all healthy and medically treatable animals in shelters could be adopted, not put to their deaths, but the state didn't set aside cash for it. Then the state cut shelter money in 2009 due to the recession. The Governor has named a vet from UC Davis to head the program, Dr. Kate Hurley, who says there's no spay and neuter services at some shelters, which could now change. The state is not making euthanasia illegal, just looking to help shelters so they can adopt more pets out.

The Governor's new budget includes spending billions on the environment. The Natural Resources Agency stands to receive as much as \$6.7 billion for departments including Cal Fire, where about half of that money looks to end up. The budget sets aside money so almost 700 new Cal Fire staffers can be hired. More than half of them would be full-time firefighters. The budget also sets aside money for investments in the Department of Fish and Wildlife for ecosystem diversity, expanding oil and gas production regulations under the Department of Conservation, creating at least one new state park and a proposed climate change resiliency bond.

A state proposal for as much as \$1 billion in federal tax credits spread out over 10 years because of wildfire devastation may be diverted for homeless housing, at least some of it. The Press Democrat reports the money would go to help 13 counties affected by fires in 2017 and 2018 and state officials say only the unused tax credits would help with homeless housing. Sonoma County officials say it should all go to housing for fire impacted areas especially in the North Bay and Butte County. Congressman Mike Thompson says the money is supposed to be spent in natural disaster devastated areas, and the language in the bill is unequivocal. The newspaper reports the state treasurer's office released proposed guidelines to also use the money for federal low-income housing tax credits.

01/29/20 Thompson has written a letter of concern to the treasurer.

A proposal from a state senator for residents 19 and under in trouble with the law to be tried as juveniles. Right now teens 16 and 17 can be tried as adults for certain crimes. Sen. Nancy Skinner says that should go up to 19 because brain research shows a part of the brain inhibiting impulses is not fully matured yet. The California Chief Probation Officers of California is supporting her bill.

A joint meeting of the Ukiah City Council and Planning Commission on the city's General Plan. The Daily Journal reports the meeting will begin to flesh out the vision of the document after another joint meeting ended with the General Plan last year. City staff have been gathering input from the public from the city's new General Plan website, [ukiah2040.com](http://ukiah2040.com). Some of the ideas that have been put forth include, more housing for the working class, more energy efficient and affordable housing, possible rent control, senior housing and much more. The staff report says the reason for this second workshop is a status report on the General Plan and next steps. The meeting today at 5:30 in Council chambers.

A man from Ukiah has died in a car crash on Highway 20 near Redwood Valley. The CHP reports 32 year old Joseph Denson was killed yesterday morning around 7:45 as he approached Road A and the Mercedes he was driving lost traction and crashed into a Jeep Cherokee. The other driver Christian Hunt of Lakeport had moderate injuries and was taken to a hospital. The highway was closed for a couple of hours after the crash, which is being investigated, but the CHP reports they don't believe either drugs or alcohol were factors.

A massive recycling fraud ring has been busted up in California. The Calif. Dept. of Resources Recycling and Recovery aka CalRecycle working with the state Dept. of Justice. An arrest happened in Southern Calif. earlier this week, essentially stopping the multi-million dollar scheme that was reportedly happening in Nevada and Arizona too. Nearly a dozen people were arrested for felony recycling fraud, conspiracy, and grand theft. Those arrested are accused of taking out-of-state empty beverage containers and bringing them to California to defraud the state's Beverage Container Recycling Fund of more than \$2 million. In Nevada and Arizona, residents don't pay deposits on beverage purchases so the containers are not actually eligible for California Redemption Value.

Caltrans and Konocti Conservation Camp workers honored by the Board of Supervisors for work reducing the wildfire risk in Lake County. Lake Co News reports the Board presented a proclamation to representatives of the two agencies. Supervisor Rob Brown delivered a speech along with the presentation, reminding those in attendance of the great work over the last five years and that some crews were working to clear areas of Bottle Rock Road at the same time. Brown said he helped with cleanup personally in the same area as part of the "1,000 Hands" project.

Several hundred people at the state capitol protesting a new law they say threatens their livelihood as they survive on the gig economy. Truck drivers, exotic dancers, and singers, massage therapists, sign language interpreters and freelance journalists at the Rally to Repeal Assembly Bill 5 yesterday. It was sponsored by a Republican Assemblymember from Lake Elsinore who's looking to overturn the law sponsored by a Democrat last year and signed into law by the Governor. Many gave speeches at the rally against the new law that set strict rules for how businesses now have to work with independent contractors. Democrats and Republicans alike at the rally say they want the new law repealed. One bill introduced since would overturn parts of AB5, and another to exempt certain workers, while leaving others behind. The new law means freelancers are only allowed to take on 35 assignments a year then they have to become a part-time or full-time employee.

Five women from Northern California including one from Lake County are being honored for their outstanding contributions to agriculture and their communities. Lake Co News reports on the 2020 Common Threads North Award. The awards presented at a dinner at Hotel Winters April 1st. This year, Marilyn Holdenried is one of the recipients. The Kelseyville resident is one of those being recognized for their work in agriculture. All demonstrating their service to the field and to their communities by volunteering and donating. Denise Carter of Colusa County, Sarah DeForest of Butte County, Yvonne Koehnen of Glenn County and Nita Vail of Sacramento County are all also receiving the honor. For more info, visit [CommonThreadsNorth.com](http://CommonThreadsNorth.com)

An out of state advertising agency hired to help Lake County with tourism has been re-upped for another run. Lake Co News reports Cubic Creative of Tulsa, Oklahoma has created a brand identity for Lake County as part of the Lake County Tourism Improvement District. The District collects a 1.5 percent tax from lodging facilities to bring in even more tourism. The county and Lakeport and Clearlake joining in the effort to attract more visitors. The advertising company hired last year for the branding and logo effort, and now again for a tourism website. The company will also help target audiences regionally to visit Lake County thru so-called micro-targeting.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector / Court Collections Office wants the public to know they're renovating. They're apologizing for whatever inconvenience it may cause to the public as they visit the office. But they say they're doing the work to increase efficiency and accessibility so they can provide better service to customers. They also say they're working to limit negative impacts whenever possible; but because of the nature of the project, noise and accessibility issues may come up. And at times, office and phone hours will need to be adjusted to accommodate certain phases of the project.

Information can be obtained by visiting our website at [www.mendocinocounty.org/ttc](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/ttc) or by telephone at (707) 234-6875. Emails sent to [ttc@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:ttc@mendocinocounty.org) will be responded to within two (2) business days of receipt.

01/30/20 An inmate at the Mendocino County Jail was found earlier this week unconscious in his cell due to a drug overdose. The 26-year-old man was found during the routine check. A nurse evaluated the man and determined that he had overdosed. She administered the opioid-reversal drug Narcan. Mendocino County deputies noticed that there were several empty plastic bags lying near the man. The sheriff said that Narcan had to be administered two more times before taking the man to the hospital.

An earthquake was recorded early Wednesday morning near Ukiah was measured at 3.5 according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake was centered a mile west of Redwood Valley and struck shortly after 4:30 am. The majority of those who felt the earth move under their feet were in Mendocino County with over 130 folks who said they felt it. Fifty-six in Redwood Valley, 53 in Ukiah, and 17 in Willits said they felt the tremor. One person in Santa Roda reported feeling it, as well as one person in Mountain View.

Two Ukiah teens were arrested for the drive-by shooting that happened last November. 18-year-old Alexis Navarrete and an unidentified 17-year-old male have both been charged with attempted murder. Navarrete was also charged with conspiracy and possession of illegal weapons. The other teen was already in police custody at the Mendocino County Juvenile Detention Center for an unrelated incident; he has been charged with attempted murder and conspiracy. The two teens allegedly opened fire on Observatory Avenue near Helen avenue around 9 pm on November 11th. Ukiah police say that the incident was from a confrontation that happened that evening and was likely gang-related.

The California Highway Patrol reports that a 26-year-old man from Redwood Valley died when his motorcycle crashed into a tree early Wednesday morning near Ukiah. Officials say that the man at around 3:30 a.m. was driving eastbound on Masonite Industrial Road near Kunzler Ranch Road. The man somehow lost control of his bike and went down an embankment and smashed into a tree. The man was thrown from the vehicle due to the force of the impact. He died at the scene.



Lakeport police now carry some new equipment to use in an emergency and it didn't cost the department a dime. Lake Co News reports that the department has won an Automated External Defibrillator—or AED—from a company that makes those devices. AEDs shock the heart back to life after someone has a heart attack, and doctors say the units can be lifesavers if used quickly on someone whose heart has stopped. Lakeport police have been training to use the new gear for the last couple of years as portable AEDs have become more common. Now, officers will have one available in a patrol car and chief Brad Rasmussen says he hopes to buy more of them to put in the field and at city facilities where they could be used by any trained bystander. The devices cost between \$500 and \$2,000. The American Red Cross has more information about AEDs and how you can

01/31/20 learn to use one, on its website, [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

The state says it has wrapped up work on several projects to help reduce the risk of wildfires, including a couple in Mendocino County. One of them is the Ukiah Emergency Fuels Reduction Project, which is meant to reduce wildfire speed and intensity along 700 acres of ridgelines around the city of Ukiah and nearby communities. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection says the work will protect vulnerable infrastructure and give firefighters a leg up on any fires that start. The other project involved a 15-mile fire break and a 550 acre planned burn in the Willits area. The goal there was to improve roadways and evacuation routes and to create a control line to protect both sides of the Willits Valley. A longer-term project involving almost 12,000 acres in the Willits area is also in the works. The state says 34 of the 35 emergency protection projects identified last year are now done, with the last one due to be finished in the spring.

The Lake County Chamber of Commerce hosting a forum next week for residents to learn more about some of the candidates running for the Lake County Board of Supervisors in the March 3rd primary. The meeting will be on Thursday, February 6th at 6:00 PM in the Board Chambers in Lakeport. The 4 candidates running for supervisor in the 5th district are expected to be there. The deadline to register for the March primary is coming up on February 18th and if you want a mail-in ballot, you'll have to request one by February 25th.

A new study says the state's Dungeness crab fishing industry is at risk from rising acid levels in the Pacific. Until now, that threat was thought to be a long way away but now scientists conclude it may be a problem much sooner. Scientists say developing crabs off the coast are already showing signs that their bodies are being damaged by more acidic water, which could mean big trouble ahead. One coastal fisherman tells the Press-Democrat that the finding is discouraging and that he wouldn't want to be a younger person just starting out in the industry. The Dungeness crab brought in 47 million dollars to the state economy last year—much of that to already struggling fishing communities along the central north coast.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors wants 5 volunteers for the County Board of Appeals. That board does the important work of taking cases that have already been decided if property owners or builders disagree. There is one opening in each of the county's five districts and applicants must live in the district they want to serve. You can put your name up for consideration at the Lake County Board office in the County Courthouse or by going online to the county website. The appeals panel was established in 1987.

The Superbowl is Sunday, and whether you are pulling for the 49ers or the Chiefs, CHP says your plans should include a designated driver or a safe way home if you'll be drinking before, during, or after the game. They are also warning party hosts too, who could be liable if someone leaves and gets into a drunk driving crash later. Officers say people who drink and drive put themselves and others at risk and if they're caught, they will get no sympathy. There will be more patrols out through Sunday looking for impaired drivers as well as drivers who speed or aren't buckled up. Last year three people died in alcohol-related crashes and another 140 were hurt. 187 people were also cited for DUI.

A group involved in redwood conservation is kicking off the public phase of its 120 million dollar fundraising campaign, with some of that money planned to establish a new redwood park in Sonoma County. Save the Redwoods League has already raised 80 million dollars in private donations for its Centennial Vision for the Redwoods Initiative. One of the goals of the project is to create the first new state Redwoods Park in 40 years in the Richardson Reserve, which has more than 300 big trees—one of them estimated to be more than 1600 years old.

Some students from the Ukiah Unified School District have a lot to be proud of. Teams from the Pomolia Middle School and Ukiah High School have come home as winners from a pair of regional Science Olympiads in Los Angeles and in Portland, Oregon. The team of 6 high schoolers won top honors in LA for competitions in Detector Building, Gravity Vehicle, and Geological Mapping, while the younger students brought back six medals for their efforts in science-related competition in Portland. Teachers and school administrators say they are proud of the students – and their parents – for what they have accomplished. They say the teams had to overcome a lot of obstacles, including some last-minute transportation snafus on the way. Science Olympiad is a nationwide team competition that brings together kids to learn about scientific disciplines like biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. The district says the most recent winners show the strong commitment schools are making to kids interested in science, technology and math fields and that more students will take part in similar challenges throughout the year.

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Fishing season is just around the corner and anglers who want to take part in this year's Clear Lake Bass Tournament can now sign up. The 33rd edition of that tournament is on March 21st and 22nd and early-bird entrants will be among the first to toss their worms into the lake to try to snag the biggest fish. Last year more than 130 teams took to the water, with the winning team reeling in more than 50 pounds of fish. The event is one of the most popular of the season on Clear Lake. Sign up is at the Chamber of Commerce Office in Lakeport.

PG&E has yet another plan to emerge from its bankruptcy, this time it includes reworking the board of directors. The overhaul reportedly happening so the state won't take over the utility company. The info came out Friday in the latest plan to get out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy by the end of June. But Governor Newsom still has to go along with the idea, as he's been threatening a government takeover and saying the company needed a different plan after a string of catastrophic fires blamed on the utility company's equipment. The Gov. had told PG&E it needed to replace its entire board including the CEO. No word on what the exact make-up of the

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board will be, just that it was refreshing it before coming out of bankruptcy.

A massive overhaul to state schools on the ballot in March. Proposition 13 is a \$15 billion dollar bond to fix and modernize schools, with 9 of the 15 billion going to K-12 schools, especially for health and safety concerns including earthquake retrofits, removing mold and asbestos from old classrooms and lead out of drinking water. The remainder of the money would help public universities and community colleges. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association opposes the idea saying instead the state should use money from the state surplus, not borrow it.

State Sen. Mike McGuire says there's a million dollars available over the next three years for an expansion of construction programs at Mendocino College after catastrophic wildfires. McGuire says he's been working to help find money for jobs for rebuilds in Lake and Mendocino Counties. He was in Ukiah Friday at Mendocino College announcing the money to expand the school's construction career program with a specific focus to recruit more students for the program. He says the fires have created job losses in the two counties and this money will help the local economy and provide young community members the tools needed to start a construction career. The money will help the school's construction program expand by as much as 40%.

There's a plan to refinance debt the Ukiah City Council and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District have accrued to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Daily Journal reports the two entities have been working to refinance bonds used for the plant, one to increase capacity and the other to rehabilitate the plant. The deal's not done yet, but apparently the city and district are considering a refi to be split 54% the district's responsibility and 46-percent, city responsibility.

Not enough votes for an affordable housing bill to pass. There had been a lot of support for Senate Bill 50 to force cities to say yes to more apartment buildings that were not high-rise, but instead, mid-rise. And so that they'd be by public transit and in the same neighborhoods as some single family homes. But it died in the legislature. After the bill died, the Governor chimed in saying the state has to pass a historic housing production bill. The statement after he campaigned to have as many as 3.5 million new housing units up by 2025. The governor has vowed to focus on the issue this year.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will get an update on so-called benefit zones in Kelseyville where vegetation management is set. It's a new county based program to help reduce fuels and hazardous vegetation. Lake Co News reports the board is getting an update at their regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow morning. The benefit zone update from Community Development staff for the Clearlake Riviera, Riviera West, Buckingham and the Riviera Heights. Later in the meeting, the board will hear a report on the hazardous vegetation program the county started last year. As usual, the meeting starts at 9am.

A report on stabilizing rent at mobile home parks in Lakeport this week. The city council meeting featuring a presentation by the City Attorney tomorrow night on the rental market at mobile home communities after several community members in the Clearlake Marina Mobile Home Park complained last week to the council that their rents are going way up. The park is for seniors, 55 and over. They say a lot of the people living there are disabled and there are several veterans also living there. Many are on fixed incomes and although they own the homes, they don't own the land and say they can't leave that easily. They're asking the city to put in a rent stabilization act similar to one in Ukiah. No action is going to be taken yet, the topic is just informational in nature.

Cal Fire has awarded several million dollars for landscape-scale land management projects in more than a dozen counties. The \$67 million dollars for projects to restore and maintain healthy forests, conserve working forests, and enhance carbon storage in forests throughout the state. It's all part of Cal Fire's Forest Health and Forest Legacy programs. There are 17 Forest Health grants for more than 130,000 acres of forestland where they will thin dense and degraded forests; reduce hazardous fuels; manage drought, insects and disease; and prescribed burns for ecological restoration. There will also be 170,000 trees planted to sequester carbon, provide habitat for wildlife, and stabilize soil in severely burned areas. The grants thru a statewide program using Cap and Trade savings to work on climate change.

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance have some candidate events planned. Q & A sessions with those running for the Board of Supervisor seats in Mendocino County districts 1, 2 and 4. The town halls are open to the public and focus on the cannabis community in Mendocino. For District 4, it's on February 19th at the Redwood Coast Senior Center at 6pm Lindy Peters and Dan Gjerde, on February 21st, for District 2, in Ukiah at the Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center at 6pm for Maureen Mulheren, Joel Soinila and Mari Rodin, the District 1 meetup in Redwood Valley at the Redwood Valley Grange with John Sakowicz, Jon Kennedy, James Green and Glenn McGourty

If you would like more information on this topic, please email Courtney Bailey at [info@mendocannabis.com](mailto:info@mendocannabis.com)

A man from Kelseyville arrested last fall for starting a fire has pleaded guilty. Jody Hickey in court last week regarding the September fire last year. He got 90 days in jail and 3 years probation. The fire burned more than 50 acres and 300 people had to be evacuated. Hwy 29 was also closed for several hours near Kelseyville after the fire broke out. He was charged with a misdemeanor, careless or negligent action, someone either tossing a cigarette, ashes or a flaming or glowing substance, or incendiary device directly or indirectly starting a fire. Cal Fire took the opportunity after the sentencing to remind residents whether you're trying to create defensible space around your home, mow your lawn or if you're pulling your dirt bike over to the side of the road in a wildland area you need to use all equipment responsibly. Lawn mowers, weed-eaters, chain saws, grinders, welders, tractors and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire.

A new manager has been announced for the Ukiah Farmer's Market. The Daily Journal reports the year-round market every Saturday has hired Robert Ayres who's been in the industry for years. The paper writes that Ayres is a Florida local who moved to Southern Calif. to work in landscaping, like his dad before him. He then moved to Canada to work at his mother's farmer's market. Then the paper reports, he spent eight years in Costa Rica, where he was a market manager before arriving here in Ukiah. He was the co-manager to Scott Cratty, the last manager of the

02/04/20 Ukiah Farmer's Market.

An update on the state of the city of Ukiah's economy is set. The City Council will get the report from the City Manager Sage Sangiacomo and Finance Director Dan Buffalo. They've delivered the yearly Finance Report to the council for the fiscal year that ended June 2019, calling the local economy diverse and strong, and continuing to grow. The reports says unemployment is low, and consumer spending, building permits, and planning work showed a strong economy too. They also report the housing market is strong, but there's not enough housing to meet demand. The report to be discussed at tomorrow night's council meeting at City Hall.

A proposal to divide a vacant lot in Ukiah into three parcels for development is being discussed as neighbors protest the idea. The Daily Journal reports city staffers are considering dividing the lot on North School Street as neighbors say it will mean “horrific” congestion. There’s a special meeting planned of the City Engineer this morning after Ron Franz applied to divide the 26,000-square-foot lot, which city staff had been poised to approve. Neighbors wrote letters of opposition saying they weren’t against a development, just didn’t want three parcels because of the potential for traffic and too many people in the 500 block of North School Street near Ruddock Avenue. The hearing this morning in front of the City Engineer and Public Works Director starts at 10 a.m. at the Ukiah Civic Center.

Unpaved roads being repaired in a new way to be discussed by the Clearlake City Council. The Council to take up a new ordinance after the City Engineer and Public Works Director sent a report to the Council to find ways for more enforcement of road maintenance standards. They note that after Measure V passed a couple decades ago for roads to be maintained and fixed, that there needs to be another ordinance to impose fees and require repairs to reduce adverse effects after street excavations, which the two say degrades and shortens the life of roads.

The Lakeport City Council discussing a community development block grant and what should be paid for with it. The Record Bee reports the city could ask for as much as \$3.5 million in grant money which is generally for low and moderate income populations. The paper reports some of the projects the city is considering includes improvements to a recently purchased bank building, which the city’s turning into a community center, and developing a housing rehabilitation program to help with re-roofing and weatherizing homes. The meeting happens tonight.

A trio of Cal Fire workshops will cover the 2020 Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Grant funded by Proposition 68. The workshops being held across the state, including here locally, to cover grant opportunities, resource conservation districts, and non-profits who can help with a forestry based technical and financial assistance program for non-industrial forest landowners. The money from Proposition 68 for ecological restoration of forests that have been impacted by natural disasters like fires, insect infestations and disease. The closest one to us will be March 4th in Redding.

March 4, 2020 – 8 AM-11 AM

Redding – CAL FIRE Northern Region Operations Center, 6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002. Classroom #1

Elections are about a month away and with that the Mendocino County Elections Office has sent out absentee vote-by-mail ballots for registered voters. They remind if you’re unsure if you’ve registered, of if you’re with the right party or at the correct address, you still have time to fix items or register to begin with. Anyone registered already should be getting their absentee ballot, mailed yesterday. The official deadline to register is Tuesday, February 18th, 2 weeks from today. You may still vote though if you miss the deadline, at a polling place. If you have a No Party Preference registration, you can vote Democratic, Independent and Libertarian as well. But the other parties, including Republican will require you to re-register under their parties to vote with them.

Main Mendocino County elections contact information: (707) 234-6819, [mcvotes@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:mcvotes@mendocinocounty.org), and the [county registrar election website](https://registertovote.ca.gov/). <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> by midnight (February 18, 2020).

The Interim Executive Director for St. Joseph's Health in Northern California has made a public statement about the hospital rumored to have patients with the Corona Virus. The Director says a social media post stating the 2019 Novel Coronavirus was at the hospital was untrue. He says it's completely safe to seek care at the emergency room at St. Joseph's Hospital in Eureka.

The Academic Decathlon team at Upper Lake High School is moving on to represent the County at the California's Academic Decathlon competition. The theme this year, "In Sickness and in Health: An Exploration of Illness and Wellness." There are three categories correlating with grade point average. Lake Co News reports Upper Lake was invited to take part in the North Bay Region Academic Decathlon this year, sponsored by the Solano County Office of Education after taking online tests and competing regionally last month. Willits High will also have a representative, coming in second overall in that County.

The retiring police chief in Willits and officers in the department have been pulling overtime due to a critical staffing shortage. The Willits News reports Chief Scott Warnock is retiring March 2nd. He's one of the many working extra shifts and longer hours. But apparently there are new officers coming to town, from other cities, including Lakeport and Fort Bragg. The newspaper also reports they have a possible interim Chief, but there's been no applicants at all for the position because of the salary. The chief says the department is one of the lowest compensated in the County because there's not a large tax base. The paper reports the city manager agreeing saying they have to address the police department shortage. There are also candidates for police officer positions currently having background checks done.

A man from Clearlake accused of a drive by that killed another man is set for trial next month. 38 year old Miguel Angel Becerra of Coachella is accused of homicide, assault with a firearm, felon in possession of a firearm and more. It's all connected to the murder of Steven Stone at Trombetta's Resort last June. The victim found by police on the ground with a gunshot wound. Police say there were shots fired from a passing car, then later Becerra and his brother, Christian were found to be the prime suspects. Miguel Becerra was arrested 10 days after the shooting, but Christian is said to still be on the run. He's described as a Hispanic man, about 5 foot, 10, 165 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's considered armed and dangerous.

More than 400 cars went thru the drunk driver check point in Clear Lake. The CHP's local office conducting the checkpoint Sunday night where they were also looking for drivers without licenses. They report a dozen drivers had to go thru sobriety tests but there were zero arrests for DUI. One driver was however arrested for having a couple of felony warrants out for their arrest. Two others got tickets for driving on a suspended license and one for driving without a license and one car was towed.

A man from Kelseyville has been injured riding a motorcycle in a three vehicle crash. Lake Co News reports 65 year old Paul F. Richardson had major injuries in the crash last Thursday afternoon outside Kelseyville. The CHP report says there was a white Honda Accord stopped, with its left turn signal on, waiting to go into a private driveway, and a red Ford Explorer came up, but didn't slow down, then as the Harley rider came along, he ran into the Explorer. Richardson was tossed off his bike. He did have a helmet on though and is expected to recover. The other two drivers had their seatbelts on and one had minor injuries.

It's National School Counseling Week. The Ukiah Unified School District Board of Trustees has approved this week as National School Counseling Week after a meeting last month, looking to highlight the unique contribution of school counselors in school systems and the impact they can have helping students with their educational success and helping them to plan for a future career. The School Superintendent says the connections the counselors have with students and their families helps them build and promote a positive school culture and strengthens the education process.

#### [Parents with questions about school counseling programs should contact you](#)

Concerns about the novel Coronavirus spreading throughout China are increasing here in the states. There are more than 17,000 global cases of the virus and more than 360 people have died. All but one of those are in China. There are 11 cases in the U-S and 6 in Calif. The state Dept. of Public Health has activated an Emergency Operations Center to monitor anymore potential cases. The Lake County Health Department sent out a press release this morning that they're regularly in touch with state and federal experts and are preparing for the possibility of local cases. They also say the immediate health risk to the general public remains low.

A settlement proposed by ailing utility, Pacific Gas & Electric has been approved by the judge overseeing the company's bankruptcy, but the state of California requires it do more to avoid more catastrophic fires. The judge okay'd the deal for refinancing billions of debt by PG&E to pay off its bondholders. The utility negotiated a bunch of settlements with homeowners, businesses, insurance companies and government agencies after fires in 2017 and 18 blamed on the company's equipment. The utility company was looking to emerge from bankruptcy by June 30th, but still has to get the governor's approval, as he and other elected officials had threatened a government takeover of the utility unless it replaced its board and improved aging infrastructure.

02/05/20

An auction and fundraiser for the Mendocino County Search and Rescue for the now retired Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman raised about \$50,000. At first count the former Sheriff's sold-out retirement party Saturday was also a celebration of his four decades of service. Allman was also presented with multiple plaques, honors, and awards for all of his work including the Congressional Record, a Senate/Assembly Proclamation, a Siskiyou County Sheriff's Proclamation and signed picture by Mendocino County Search and Rescue (SAR). Some local, federal and state dignitaries were there including Congressman Jared Huffman, state Sen. Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood. Some big donors for Search and Rescue were a retired deputy, Travel Lodge, Fairfield Inn and the Marriott.

An urgency ordinance has been passed to change regulations on the homeless. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors gave the thumbs up for the ordinance to amend camping restrictions on public and private property after an appeals court invalidated certain local ordinances having to do with homeless folks sleeping and camping in public saying it violated the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. So in Mendocino County camping restrictions have been stricken from the County Code. But, there's some restrictions in place to protect waterways, wildlife and the environment.

Congressman Jared Huffman is running to keep his seat in the 2nd District. The primary is less than a month away and Huffman has one of the same challengers he's had for the last three elections, if he makes it to the general, Republican Dale Mensing of Redway. There are also three others trying to beat him in the Democratic Primary, Rachel Moniz of San Rafael; Green Party candidate Melissa Bradley of San Geronimo; and Healdsburg resident Charles "Wally" Coppock of the American Independent Party. If Huffman's successful against the lot, he would serve a fifth term.

#### [North Coast Opportunities says it's not going to sponsor the Mendo Human F](#)

The groundbreaking has begun at the Laytonville Skatepark. The work to bring the Skatepark to town has been ongoing for about twenty years. The Long Valley Skaters Association is behind the nonprofit Harwood Memorial Parks, said to be the reason the park is even happening. The Long Valley Health Center is leasing the property where the park is located for a dollar a year with Healthy Start Family Resource Center pitching in with administrative work and oversight. Evergreen Skateparks from Oregon is building the park. The construction crew is made up of skateboarders who know how to build the terrain, it's their first project in Calif.

A breach of personal information after a burglary a couple months ago at a Lake County owned clinic. Lake Co News reports Lake County Behavioral Health Services found they'd been burglarized in December at their clinic in Clearlake. Health Info that's gathered on clients which includes personal information like prescribed meds, payments and social security numbers was reportedly compromised. About 1,200 people may have been exposed due to the burglary. Letters have gone out to those who may have been affected. The state was notified since more than 500 people were compromised and Clearlake Police were immediately notified of the break-in December 6th.

Getting stricter on abatement of hazardous vegetation in Lake County. There was a nuisance abatement ordinance put in place and now the Board of Supervisors is revisiting the work done since. The Record Bee reports code enforcement officers inspected about 2,000 properties and sent out follow up courtesy letters. Another round of letters went out to those who did nothing to clear out their properties within a month. There may be fines if the county has to do the abatement work itself. Apparently 75% of those notified in the first round have complied.

Remember those physical education tests we all had to take in grade school. The Governor says he thinks they should be scrapped due to concerns of bullying and discrimination. Governor Newsom looking for a three year suspension on testing to see if the current test for students in fifth, seventh, and ninth grades should be changed or they should come up with something entirely new. The Department of Finance spokesperson says the state got complaints about the current exam's measurement of body mass index, calling it discriminatory for non-binary students.



Governor Newsom has unveiled a plan to hold more water in the San Joaquin River Delta and restore as much as 60,000 acres of habitat for endangered species. The governor's office announcing a new way to manage the state's water, saying it could bring in more than \$5 billion in new funding for environmental improvements. The Press Democrat reports the Newsom administration has been working with water agencies, looking to partner with them and environmental groups. The working plan to provide more water from the Delta, helping to create a better environment for endangered salmon, restore more than 60,000 acres of habitat for other delta's species and bring in more than \$5 billion in funding for environmental improvements.

New building and traffic codes are being considered by the Clearlake City Council. At their meeting tomorrow, the council will hear the first reading of the Building Code amendment and the first reading of the city's traffic code related to excavating streets. The city's building code covers residential, green building, plumbing, electrical, fire, mechanical and energy standards.

A man in Calpella has been arrested after a bunch of booze was stolen from a business in town. Sheriff's deputies reported to the business last Wednesday in the 6100 block of North State Street where an employee says a man swiped a case of alcohol off a pallet being offloaded to the store. Surveillance video caught a man and car that afternoon. Deputies spotted the same car later in the day, finding a man drinking some of the stolen booze. Zebulon Couthren found to be on active probation out of Mendocino County with three outstanding misdemeanor warrants. He was arrested for felony theft with a prior, violation of probation and the three active warrants. Plus cops found a 2-inch switchblade knife on him. He was being held on \$15,000.00 bail.

Mendocino Coast Healthcare District directors are a step closer to stopping labor and delivery services at the Mendocino Coast District Hospital. According to the Fort Bragg Advocate-News, the Board voted 4-0 with one board member abstaining in order to come up with a "stabilize and transfer" model for mothers-to-be who arrive at the emergency room. Many criticized the board and accused them of abandoning Fort Bragg's young families. The matter was brought to a vote after board members were warned that keeping the labor and delivery department open could cause a financial crisis for the hospital. The hospital's operating room and Labor and Delivery department were temporarily closed after state inspectors found that the rooms were not meeting the updated 2017 infection control standards. Hospital administration reopened the operating and labor and delivery rooms Jan. 31.

A couple of lawmakers working to bring awareness to Alzeimers, including Northern Calif. Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. Curry and her colleague, Monique Limón of Santa Barbara have introduced twin bills to promote awareness and early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and dementia. The bills targeting the over 65 population, their families and caregivers to the signs of the neurodegenerative disease which they call a public health crisis. It features memory loss, impaired cognitive function, and eventually death. The bills would mean informational tools for healthcare providers too by using state money that was set aside 4 years ago. Limon says Calif. has the most people impacted by the disease.

Three fishermen had to jump off their boat on the South Fork of the Eel River. This has prompted the Piercy Fire Dept to warn others to be careful of a strainer hazard about one and a half miles south of the Humboldt/Mendocino County line. It's north of Resting Oaks Village rapids. Apparently there's a vessel that was partially in the water and partly on the shore. Two fishermen on the bank, and another still in that boat when rescuers got to the scene yesterday afternoon. Rescuers say the two either fell out or jumped. They had taken on water at the top of the rapids, and it started going down. The man stuck in the boat was instructed to jump into the river and a rope was tossed to him to get him out of the water. The boat, not so lucky...

California drivers could soon be able to avoid the dreaded bad driver's license photo. Lawmakers are looking at a bill that would allow three pictures to be taken. Each extra photo taken would require the DMV to ask for a five-dollar donation that would go to fund driver's education and training programs. If the bill passes it could go in effect on or before January 1st of 2022.

State lawmakers are considering banning PG&E from making political contributions. A new bill introduced Wednesday would ban all investor-owned electric utilities from donating to political candidates in the state. But that doesn't include issue-based campaigns or other political organizations. The move is part of a crackdown on the power company with tighter restrictions on planned blackouts.

Voters are being told to watch out for fake census forms in their mailbox. The document is labeled "2020 Congressional District Census" and looks like an official document, but it's not. The forms are fundraising appeals. And it's not the first time they've been mailed out. But this time, it's happening just weeks before the government sends out notices inviting people to participate in the census.

A couple of high schoolers have been hurt after a reported assault in Upper Lake. The Superintendent of the Upper Lake Unified School District put out a public statement yesterday about the assault saying staffers got wind of a report that four high school students were approached before school downtown and two were assaulted. The two had minor injuries but came to school anyway. The superintendent also says law enforcement were investigating, and the school had taken their own safety measures and directed further questions to the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

02/06/20

A ban on Genetically Modified Organisms has been extended by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. At their regular meeting Tuesday, the board agreed to extend the ban and add onto it. The Daily Journal reports the board extended the ban to GMO cannabis products. This is in addition to the ban on GMO's written back in 2004. So the amendment says it's illegal for the propagation, cultivation or to raise, or grow genetically modified organisms in Mendocino County. There's also new language in the ordinance, but they first need to get feedback from various people, organizations and businesses.

Engineers at a couple of California Universities have created a fake jellyfish. The cyborg jellyfish is half animal and half robot. The engineers from Stanford and Caltech say their creation can help study the deep seas. They say the fish they created are made from a prosthetic device around the size of a penny that have a microchip inside and a teensy battery. The electrical attachments send pulses thru the animal, tripling the speed they can swim. They say they're also about 1,000 times more efficient than real ones so one day they could use them to collect data on ocean conditions.

Mobile home park rental pricing top of mind in Lakeport. The City Council considering rent caps at mobile home parks after complaints by some residents that their monthly rents were spiking. Residents of Marina Mobile Home Park complained to the council at their January 20th meeting that their rent was going up about \$300 because of new ownership. The residents say about two-thirds of the people living there cannot afford such a rate increase. The City Attorney informing the council of options including rent control. The Mayor Pro Tem says it would be good to have the new park owners meet with tenants to discuss options instead of getting local government involved.

Emergency rules are being considered by the state Bureau of Cannabis Control for retailers and delivery or transport cars to use QR code stickers. That would allow buyers and police to scan the items to make sure they're part of the legal marijuana market. The bureau released a statement saying the coding would help police and support the regulated cannabis market. Public comment is being accepted on the proposal this week, ending Saturday. If the idea is realized, customers would be able to use their smartphones to scan QR code stickers to see if the product they're purchasing was legit.

Rope rescue skills training is helping Mendocino and Albion-Little River volunteer firefighters. The two departments met last Sunday morning to work on their technical rope rescue skills by faking a real rescue in a thick forested area off Comptche-Ukiah Road. The training used a fake victim at the bottom of a dry creek bed with a rescuer being lowered on a rope to them. The rescuer then attaches a harness to the victim and the rescuer and the victim are raised out of the creek bed together with track pulleys. Sixteen firefighters took part in the drill.

A man charged with carrying a concealed weapon has pleaded no contest or nolo. It's sort of like a guilty plea and can be used as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. Jesus Munoz-Griego was charged with a trio of crimes, possession/transportation of a machine gun, changing or removing identifying data on pistol, revolver or any other firearm without DOJ approval and carrying a loaded firearm in vehicle while in public place/street. There were also three lesser crimes after an incident last December during a traffic stop. He was arrested for not having a valid drivers license, then weapons, ammo and drug paraphernalia were found. Muñoz-Griego got three years Summary Probation and has to spend 2 months in jail.

A new leader's been announced for the California Fire Safe Council. Patty Ciesla was hired as the new Executive Director. She was last the Executive Director of the Santa Clara County Firesafe Council. She's taking over for Larry Davis who's been in the position since Governor Schwarzenegger appointed him. Ciesla attended Stanford.

A man from Clearlake has been arrested after a car chase with police ended in a crash. Police say 22 year old Cody Crouch was arrested Tuesday afternoon after an officer on routine patrol saw him driving a white Honda Accord with an expired registration. But Crouch wouldn't stop so officers pursued him thru neighborhoods and dirt roads, as the suspect's car lost its front and rear bumpers. They say he also tossed a gun out the window, which was found by police. Then he aimed his car at the patrol vehicle, got out and ran away. He was busted finally and charged with several crimes including felony evading, felon in possession of a firearm and assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer. He was being held without bail.

The Governor's office has announced an initiative to pardon gay people for being gay. Governor Newsom's office reportedly inspired by a call they got to pardon a humanitarian and civil rights leader arrested for a misdemeanor vagrancy offense for consensual adult sexual activity. Bayard Rustin has since died, but the Governor issued him a posthumous pardon. California one of several states where vagrancy, loitering, and sodomy charges have been slapped on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. Newsom's office says as a proud LGBTQ-allied state, California is turning the page on historic wrongs. President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he died in 1987.

Reports of a sketchy power line in the area where the Camp Fire started in Butte County. During an inspection two months ago by an expert reportedly hired by wildfire victims' lawyers, a power line with rusty equipment and held together in places by electrical tape was discovered. The line is known as the "Cresta-Rio Oso" and is reportedly only 100 yards away from the line believed to have started the fire, the Caribou-Palermo. Rusty equipment failed in 2018 on that line which has been widely blamed to be the cause of the Camp Fire which killed 85 people and destroyed the town of Paradise. The lawyers released the findings to the public earlier today after a judge in the utility company's bankruptcy case approved their final plan to emerge from Chapter 11 by June 30th. Court papers say the company inspected 50,000 transmission structures in high-risk areas after the Camp Fire.

Labor and Delivery services close to be closed down for good by the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District. The Advocate newspaper reports the board of directors for the hospital voted unanimously last week to ask medical staff to find a plan to stabilize then transfer mothers-to-be who come to the hospital's emergency room. They will reportedly focus on birthing babies without a labor and delivery department. Some from the public spoke out against the vote, and others support it as a way to save money. It comes as the hospital had a better December after months of losses. Labor and Delivery and the Operating Room were all temporarily closed by state inspectors recently after the departments were found to be following 2011 infection control standards instead of updated 2017 standards.

A couple of referendums on the Presidential Primary ballot in Fort Bragg, Proposition 13, a state measure, and Measure B for the Fort Bragg Unified School District. Prop 13 the Public Preschool, K-12 and College Health and Safety Act of 2020, as we've previously reported, gives \$15 billion dollars across the state to update failing school facilities. 9 billion for K-12 and \$2 billion for community colleges and the two state university systems. The Advocate reports Measure B is to bring in \$15 million for local schools, assessing a six cents per \$100 of property value tax, giving the local school district \$2 million a year to improve school sites. The Advocate has published the pros and cons of each issue.

The Timberwolf Stadium at Fort Bragg High School still not finished after years of planning. The Advocate News reports there've been plans for an all-weather track and field, and the Sports Foundation, behind the remodel is supposed to replace the lights this year. That's going to cost \$250,000. The members of the foundation are still raising money for the fixes and have recently applied for a \$6.5 million dollar Community Development Grant.

The foundation says if they don't get the grant, they don't have another plan yet on how they'll raise enough money to finish the stadium.

02/07/20

A tour of Mendocino High last month shows just what work needs to be done at the school to keep it in 21st Century shape. That was apparently to show visitors the need for a \$24 million school bond that's on the March Presidential Primary ballot. The school was constructed in 1947. The Maintenance Manager led the tour at the school last month showing visitors, broken thermostats in the main building, an old entry door into the school, and undersized office rooms. They also want to replace some floors, lights and electrical wiring.

A man arrested then had the charges dropped for the murder of another man from Lucerne could be getting out of jail soon. The Record Bee reports Daniel Wayne Ford admitted to a parole violation of possessing meth so he was sentenced to 120-days, he'll probably only serve half. He's serving the last bit of another sentence for an unrelated crime and should get out in the beginning of April. The DA dropped the murder charge against him for Nikky Smith's death in November. Ford and another man were arrested for suspicion of murder, kidnapping, robbery and carjacking. Both men saw their charges dropped for insufficient evidence, but the DA is leaving the case open until they get DNA test results back.

A request to divide a vacant lot in Ukiah for three buildable parcels has been approved by the Public Works Director and City Engineer. Neighbors said it would create too much traffic on N. School Street, but at the hearing, nobody was there to speak against the project. Appeals can only be made if someone shows up in person. There were three people in attendance and they were informed to speak out, but none did. An appeal could still go to the City Council after one council member said he'd file an appeal on behalf of any resident interested in that. Those who had opposed previously did so in writing saying they weren't opposed to a subdivision in the area, just didn't want three parcels, from the giant piece of land, just two.

The temporary moratorium on growing industrial hemp has been extended for the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County. The county is still looking at new hemp regulations after the board voted on an a temporary ban on hemp cultivation in Feb. of 2019. It was extended again last April until this month. Hemp is legal in Calif and in the US, but cross pollination with cannabis has been a concern for some, saying it could damage or devalue cannabis flowers. So the ordinance for unincorporated areas of Mendocino County holds for industrial hemp cultivation. The Daily Journal reports the County is not planning to regulate the hemp industry at this time.

A home that burned last week has caught fire again. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority on the scene yesterday morning on Brush Street finding the home totally engulfed in flames. There was nobody in the home as it was boarded up and vacant. The Daily Journal reports flames spread to another building and power pole, neither were destroyed, but were damaged. Firefighters say it might be an arson fire, but they weren't definitive yet. A fire started at the same house last week spreading to the attic from the porch. Fire officials say that fire looked like something was set on fire on the porch. That fire they say was probably a warming fire, but this fire was deemed suspicious.

A \$15 million dollar discrimination lawsuit has been filed against Lake County by its former human resources director. Pamela Nichols lawsuit says the county and its Administrative Officer Carol Huchingson retaliated against her then fired her after she complained about illegal activity and “matters of public concern” including workplace discrimination. She’s asking for \$12 million from the County and the other \$3 million against Huchingson saying her race was a “motivating factor” in why she was fired. She claimed there was a hostile work environment including, retaliation, sham investigations and a pattern, practice, custom and policy which violated her constitutional rights.

A man from Geyserville has been arrested after a winery was broken into and a car with two guns in it was stolen. Colin Curtis reportedly arrested for suspicion of felony burglary and vandalism, plus he had an outstanding warrant for failing to appear in court for a drug-related case. A woman reported seeing him prowling around her house Monday afternoon, then hours later a man with a flashlight was reported lurking around a winery in Healdsburg. The next day there was a break in at the winery, but nothing was stolen. A car driven into a creek by Curtis was found to be stolen. And two handguns were found inside and he was arrested and held on \$35,000 bail.

The state assembly is considering a bill that would make it tougher for unlicensed cannabis operations. Assembly bill 2122 targets any business that supports illegal operators, including property managers, billboard advertisers, and others who do business with the black market. The state says that the black market is more than twice the size of the LEGAL cannabis trade, and often lures customers with lower prices for seemingly legitimate cannabis products. Sponsors say the goal is to take a bite out of those illicit sales by increasing the penalties for anyone who supports them.

A gray wolf that was tracked across thousands of miles in Northern California for the past 3 years has died. The wolf, known by its tracking collar ID of OR-54, was found dead in Shasta County, but the California Department of Fish and Wildlife isn’t sure yet what happened to her. She was around 4 years old and was one of just a few such wolves left in the state. Wildlife biologists say the animal was a beacon of hope that the species might make a comeback from the brink of extinction, with the wild population in California now numbering a dozen or less. OR 54 logged more than 8,700 miles since she was captured and tagged, averaging 13 miles a day.

A lawsuit’s been filed against Mendocino County after the county certified the Environmental Impact Report for its Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Plan. The Daily Journal reports Project Coyote and the Mendocino Nonlethal Wildlife Alliance filed suit last week saying the plan violates the state’s Environmental Quality Act and that there was not enough public participation and hasty decisions were made to adopt the program. The lawsuit claims the public didn’t have all of the information about how the plan would impact the environment what the long-term consequences would be. The county agreed for the federal government to help with wildlife damage management services and programs for residents to deal with wild animals and any problems they cause including lethal and

02/10/20 non-lethal options.

More hours now in the County related to the county's cannabis program. Those needing help beyond a phone call can go to the County Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 p.m.- 4 p.m. All phone calls and emailing will be Monday thru Friday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. The hours were changed because of the volume of calls they were getting. The changes after the county announced a new cannabis program manager was hired. They're all located in the Planning and Building Services Department. Their phone number is (707) 234-6650, and their email is CannabisProgram@mendocinocounty.org.

The feasibility traffic study for Orchard Avenue in Mendocino County has been released. The Daily Journal reports they looked at a northern extension of Orchard Avenue, County Road 147, making recommendations and feasibility options for another potential north-south route through the Greater Ukiah Valley along with bike and pedestrian facilities. There were concerns raised about traffic on North State Street and the 101 which could be a problem with ambulances or other emergency vehicles. The project goes through industrial and agricultural land and would go in phases for a total price consideration of about \$92 million in today's dollars.

A former Adventist Health Clear Lake doctor's lawsuit against the hospital is moving to trial. The judge ruled the defendant may be convicted of malice for the way the plaintiff, Dr. Ryan J. Kime was fired in 2015. Kime filed suit in 2017 claiming he was wrongfully fired and retaliated against for speaking out and threatening to report unsafe emergency services practices. He says he saw the same problems occurring which were violations of the law and a threat to patient safety regarding the way they transferred patients. He says he's ready to go to trial to protect other doctors who sacrifice their careers by speaking out.

The California Treasurer has changed her tune, saying now that \$100 million in new federal tax credits are going to go to housing projects for wildfire victims. There had been some talk about the Treasurer Fiona Ma saying some of the money could go to help the homeless. But after some pressure, Ma came out Friday saying the tax credits will help 13 counties devastated by wildfires in 2017 and 2018. The housing credits for Butte, Lake, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Sonoma, Ventura and Yuba. The Treasurer released guidelines last month on what she proposed for the left over housing credits and many spoke out about it, including Congressman Mike Thompson who sent a letter to her.

A man in Albion has been arrested for vandalism and threatening a cop. The Sheriff's office reports getting a call Saturday morning to a vandalization and possible emotional breakdown. A responding deputy found Manuel Camargo and another man, who's property Camargo was living at. They say he became agitated so the deputy called for backup, but Camargo grabbed a hatchet and metal pole and vandalized the other man's property. Camargo was finally arrested, but first kicked the patrol car windshield. He was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on \$15,000.00 bail.

A woman from Ukiah's been arrested for a burglary in Redwood Valley and cruelty to a child. The Mendocino County Sheriff's office went out a week ago to a where the male homeowner says a two year old girl was in his house, and she didn't know where her parents were. On the way to the home, cops say someone flagged them down to say their car was stolen. Deputies found the toddler was Rusti Vassar's child, and believed she had committed a burglary and was the thief of the stolen vehicle. They then saw the stolen car, stopped it and found four people in the vehicle including Vassar driving it. She was arrested for Willful Cruelty to child, Auto Theft, Burglary and Child Neglect and held on \$150,000.00 bail.

The deadline to register to vote in Lake County is coming up. Next Tuesday is the last date before the March 3rd Presidential Primary Election. The Registrar's office says they also need volunteers to observe. They'll start counting all of the vote by mail ballots on election day. They'll test the equipment's tabulation software for accuracy with a public manual tally happening that day too. All of this information is on the department's website.

A formal reprimand for an assemblywoman accused of an unwanted hug and kiss. The leader of the state Assembly has formally reprimanded Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo, a fellow Democrat, and her chief of staff George Esparza, he for using inappropriate sexual language. Now the pair have to go through training or coaching about appropriate workplace conduct. Separately, lawmakers have to pay a former employee more than \$300,000 for an unrelated lawsuit alleging the state Senate and former state Sen. Tony Mendoza retaliated after the former employee reported Mendoza sexually harassed a co-worker.

The state's three biggest utility companies say their plans during wildfire season include public safety power shutoffs, but they'd be smaller and shorter. PG&E released plans for outages saying they're doing them to keep customers and communities safe during severe fire weather. They also plan to trim more vegetation so if it hits their equipment, it doesn't spark. They will also fortify power lines so they don't throw sparks. The new plans have been filed with the state Public Utilities Commission after fires in 2017 and 18 were blamed on electrical equipment. Millions of people were without power last fall after unprecedented intentional power downs. Southern California Edison reports they have new technology to identify problems before a fire starts and when a power line is down.

Record-breaking wind across Northern Calif. The National Weather Service says they recorded a wind gust of 209 mph at 7:45 a.m. Sunday at nearly 9,200 feet on Kirkwood Mountain south of Lake Tahoe. The National Weather Service in Reno, says wind speeds were at 150 mph and kept climbing. They say they think it's a record, but it could take months to verify it. The last record on Ward Mountain west of Lake Tahoe in November of 2017, measured at 199 mph. Along with the wind there was widespread flooding in Washington and Oregon which carried into California with the cold front. Hail, snow and wind blew into the state, knocking down trees and shutting down power in some areas. There was also hail in the Los Angeles area yesterday and snow in mountainous areas north and east of the city.



The Coronavirus continues to make headlines, but the flu is also here in full swing. The Lake County's Public Health officer says it's not that severe, but the latest report on Friday showed above expected levels of hospitalizations and outpatient cases. 87 confirmed outbreaks recorded and 266 deaths since the end of September in Calif. Nine of the deaths were children. Across the nation in 45 states including Puerto Rico and New York City, flu cases were up nearly 7 percent from a week before. As many as 22 million flu cases across the country, 210,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 deaths. Reports say the amount of deaths in Calif in people younger than 65 was consistent with other seasons.

The Lake County Public Health officer is planning to update the Board of Supervisors on the Coronavirus. At their meeting tomorrow Dr. Gary Pace will be on hand discussing the illness. But he did say ahead of the meeting that the risk in Lake County remained low. There have been a half dozen cases in the state, the closest to us in Santa Clara County.

A man in Fort Bragg has been arrested after a fight with another man. Police have not released either of their names and say they got a call early Sunday morning and found the victim, a 42 year old man from Fort Bragg, bleeding from near his ear and that he had a missing ear lobe. He says he was fighting with a 38 year old man, also from Fort Bragg who bit part of his ear off. Cops found the earlobe and got him to the hospital for treatment. They sent out a Be on the Lookout alert for the suspect and he was found and said to be cooperating with police. The case was sent to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office to review possible charges.

It's finally happening. Three years after the winter of rain that destroyed Library Park's seawall in Lakeport, the work has begun to replace it. FEMA money will mostly pay for the replacement wall after the Lakeport City Council voted unanimously for the contractor from Coos Bay, Oregon to begin the work. Their bid was just under \$800,000. The city engineer said it would be about \$1 million to replace the 500 or so feet of wall. The new wall will be made of nearly half-inch-thick sheet pile 25 feet into the ground. The old wall was made of cinder blocks. The new one is designed for the 100-year flood level after the February 2017 storm brought the wall down. It's been closed to the public along with its sidewalk ever since. There was a plan in place but last March another storm delayed things.

02/11/20

The name of a man from Kelseyville killed in a single car crash last week has been released. 92 year old Charles Kluge alone in the 2006 Acura crashed near Kelseyville last Thursday morning. The California Highway Patrol's Clear Lake Area office reports he drove thru a couple of wire fences then hit an embankment. He did not have on a seat belt. A REACH air ambulance transported him to Santa Rosa, he died at the hospital. The CHP says there will be an autopsy to see if he had a medical issue that contributed to the accident, and that they do not suspect alcohol as a factor in the crash.

State Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry have introduced a bill in each house for the Fire Safe Home Tax Credit. The two both cover Lake County and McGuire also covers Mendocino County. Both, especially Lake hit hard in recent years by wildfires. More than 38,000 homes destroyed in California in the last five years costing hundreds of millions in cleanup and a billion in vegetation management. McGuire says the bill he introduced will help homeowners qualify for tax credits for home hardening projects to protect against wildfires. It's a one-time only \$10,000 credit for items like replacing roofs, exterior walls, vents, decks, fences and chimneys. State Sen. Bill Dodd also signed on as a co-author.

The latest numbers on the North Coast grape crop show a decline year over year. The harvest report for 2019 shows wine sales off 15% from 2018 across the country. In Calif. farmworkers plucked just under 491,000 tons of grapes. That's 17% less than a year before in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino and Lake counties. But grape prices were slightly higher, 2% over 2018 at a record \$3,499 per ton in 2019. These are preliminary numbers which will be solidified next month. Some analysts for the industry say there was an oversupply of wine which will continue to adjust this year.

A judge in the case brought by independent contractors against a new employment law says Uber and Postmates are not exempt from the law while she's considering the case. The ride-sharing company and food delivery service had asked for a preliminary injunction against the new law for wage and benefit protections for those working as independent contractors, but the judge said no. The two companies and others say the new labor law violates federal and state constitutional guarantees of equal protection and due process. Uber says the new law is biased and an overtly political process was used to ignore workers voices on the matter.

Legislation has been introduced by State Senator Bill Dodd which he says will improve the safety and reliability of California utility companies. Dodd's Senate Bill 947 says the Calif. Public Utilities Commission would have to come up with a regulatory framework to condition utility companies future earnings on meeting safety, reliability and cost efficiency goals. Plus it would create a set of financial disincentives if their equipment causes fires and if they intentionally shut off power in severe fire weather conditions. Dodd says utility companies need to be held accountable. And that a performance-based model will discourage reckless behavior and intentional power outages, while promoting responsible behavior. Dodd's office says there are 19 states who use some form of performance-based utility policy.

Real ID's aren't being issued in Calif. to all of the drivers who will need them before the deadline. The Press Democrat reports the state's probably going to have to double the amount of Real ID's issued each month so the millions of drivers in the state will have the federally required id card before the Oct. 1st deadline. The DMV reports only 25% of California's 27 million drivers have applied for the new licenses since January 2018. And the agency only issued about 382,000 last month which was about 100,000 less than each month of the previous six. You've got to have a Real ID if you want to travel domestically on an airplane. The Dept. of Homeland Security is requiring all Americans to have one as another layer of safety for travel within the US and if you want to get onto any secure federal facilities or military bases.

Some Camp Fire survivors are remembering their loved ones who died in relation to the fire, not necessarily because they were injured or trapped by it. They are also not noted in the official Butte County coroner's list of the 85 who died. For instance one young man had muscular dystrophy and died after he was evacuated. His mom says it was due to the way he had to quickly get out of his home. And a new report says 15 months later, there are still those who had complications from the fire who have died. That includes from emotional or mental health and respiratory problems related to the smoke. The report says at least 50 more above the official death toll have been linked by medical experts and lawyers to the Camp Fire.

Another swing at it for Wine Country Cannasseurs as they try to open a new operation near downtown Ukiah. The Planning Commission is hearing again on a permit application for the cannabis dispensary and cultivation business already denied a city zoning exemption to have three offices near a mobile home park and church. Applicant Jay Donnellan is appealing the decision after first appealing to the City Council and most members overturned the Planning Commission's decision. The Daily Journal reports the business proposes three storefronts on E. Smith Street for cultivation, manufacturing and retail. The Planning Commission said no, but the city council said to go back to the commission for another go at it. The meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in

02/12/20 the City Council's chambers.

A fire has destroyed a trailer and threatened an apartment complex for a time. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority on the scene early yesterday morning for the trailer fire and were told there might be kids trapped inside. The Acting Battalion Chief says police got there first and had gone door to door to make sure the nearby apartment complex was evacuated, and the trailer was empty. There were no children in the trailer, but instead in the apartment complex, where everyone got out safely with the help of police. The accidental fire did not spread to the apartments. A lantern apparently caught something on fire inside the trailer. The owner had some burns on his hands and face. The trailer was also heavily damaged.

You may have seen smoke and flames in the eastern hills above Ukiah which was just a controlled burn. Cal Fire's Mendocino Unit was on the scene and had warned the public if they saw smoke, there were controlled burns there for the next month. They cleared about 150 acres of vegetation including brush, grass and limbs early this week and planned another 200 acres in the same area the next day. The burns are planned everyday this week between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. as part of the Priority Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project as a preventative measure. The areas included in the burns are south of Lake Mendocino, the communities of El Dorado, Vichy Springs, Talmage, the western Ukiah Hills, the Turtle Creek drainage, and the base of Cow Mountain.

A Rebuilding Town Hall is set for Redwood Valley. This Thursday night at 7, State Sen. Mike McGuire and Mendocino County are hosting the meeting at Eagle Peak Middle School so residents can hear an update on the Redwood Valley County Water District Reconstruction and Improvement Project. There are nearly 200 homes impacted by the plan after the Water District and more than 500 homes were destroyed in the Redwood Complex Fire of 2017. The water system needs to mostly be rebuilt to match modern building standards. The Daily Journal reports a lot of progress has been made and there will be a groundbreaking later this year. There will be a Q&A session at the Town Hall.

A lockdown at three schools in Ukiah after an arson suspect reportedly appears nearby. It all started yesterday morning when the Sheriff's Office got a call that Lawrence Murray had an altercation with two women near the schools and when a deputy was trying to interview the three of them, Murray took off. The Sheriff's office reports because of the disturbance the schools went into lockdown. The man's vehicle was found but he ran away so Ukiah High, Pomolita Middle School and Frank Zeek Elementary School were all locked down as a precaution. But it only lasted about ten minutes as Murray got away.

The Gov. still not giving the thumbs up on Pacific Gas & Electric's plan to emerge out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy by June. The Governor's lawyers in the Bankruptcy court saying they'd like a chance to speak to the utility about its plan to borrow billions and sell more stock to pay for the \$13.5 billion they've agreed to distribute for the more than 75,000 victims of the catastrophic wildfires started by the utility's equipment and negligence. They also have to pay an additional \$12 billion to insurance companies and governmental entities who also had losses in the massive fires of 2017 and 18. The terms of the settlement were announced again at the latest hearing even though one of the fire victims spoke out against it. The judge has asked the government and PG&E lawyers to come together on the company's financing plan which could end up in court next week.

There's a spike in cases of canine distemper in wildlife in Calif. That's the word from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. The virus can not only infect house pets, but also wild carnivores, including some animals that are not dogs, like gray foxes, raccoons and skunks. House dogs that are not vaccinated can get the disease from food or water bowls left outdoors or otherwise shared with wild carnivores. A warning then for pet owners to be hyper vigilant keeping domestic pets from getting into contact with wildlife. The virus is not transmissible to humans, but can cause respiratory, neurological and gastrointestinal illness in animals.

The Lake County Community Development Department Director has left the building. Lake Co News reports after two years on the job, Michalyn DeValle has resigned. A County spokesman reported the resignation yesterday after a closed door session of the Lake County Board of Supervisors. There was a performance evaluation for DeValle during this week's closed session. The news site reports there was also a closed door session last week. Yesterday the board came out of the session announcing a new item, the appointment of an interim Community Development Department director. They appointed Public Works Director Scott De Leon.

Another meeting in Lake County regarding Pacific Gas and Electric's repeated and overlapping Public Safety Power Shutoffs last year. The governing bodies of the Cities of Clearlake and Lakeport and the County of Lake had a joint meeting on the matter then a letter was sent afterwards on the issue to the California Public Utilities Commission. Since then, the County reports there's been stories shared by residents with local officials passed on to PG&E's leadership, State Representatives, and more. Another joint meeting is planned for a week from Friday, February 21st at 1pm with the Lake County Public Safety Power Shutoff Committee. The committee will meet in Board of Supervisors chambers in Lakeport. There will be a representative from PG&E there to give an update on plans to harden city centers, critical facilities, and schools against future PSPS events.

The Governor says he's got plots of land for homeless shelters. Early in the New Year the governor issued an executive order so state-wide agencies would evaluate excess land to be used as potential emergency homeless shelters. They came up with a map with more than 1,000 parcels, between a quarter-acre up to 70 acres. Some are near highways, some near prisons. Another near an armory has some in the neighborhood up in arms. A lawsuit has been filed that says some cities in Orange county are dropping off unsheltered residents near that armory where there's already too many shelters. CalMatters reports many cities and counties are worried about the plan by Gov. Newsom to only offer state land but not pay for any of the other costs connected to putting up and running a shelter.

02/13/20

Top honors for Middletown High School at this year's Lake County Mock Trial Competition. Upper Lake was second at the competition at the Lake County Superior Court, so Middletown High moves to the state finals next month in Los Angeles. The high schoolers pretended they were both prosecuting and defense attorneys in the fictional court case regarding the owner of a technology company who develops self-driving trucks who gets caught up in a murder or possible drowning accident. The Lake County Bar Association and Lake County Friends of Mendocino College are helping the winning team take their trip to the state competition. The data has been released from the Lake County Point in Time Count on homelessness. The count last month found there were 572 homeless people. That's 200 more than 2019. The Lake County Continuum of Care reports of those counted, 295 were male, 199 were female and 20 others wouldn't identify their gender or have been reported as "other." About 100 of them were older than 55, 315 or so between 25 and 55, 38 were 18 to 24, and 29 were under 18. The oldest homeless person counted was 94 and the youngest was a 5 month old infant. The report showed 240 of those counted were in Clearlake, 100 in Lakeport, more than 80 in Lucerne, more than 40 in Middletown, more than 30 each in Clearlake Oaks and Upper Lake, less than 20 each in Kelseyville and Nice, and less than 10 in Lower Lake.

A man from Glenhaven is recovering after a motorcycle crash on Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks. Lake Co News reports 57 year old Karl Pentz had major injuries from the crash Tuesday night. The California Highway Patrol's Clear Lake Area office reports he was riding a 2001 Harley Davidson on Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks when he crossed the double yellow lines and ran into a brick and rock wall. He was tossed off his bike and had major injuries. The bike continued sliding onto the highway. He had a helmet on and was treated for his injuries at a hospital he was flown to in Santa Rosa. The CHP says they do not suspect drugs or alcohol of being factors in the crash.

The Governor's new budget includes a plan to recruit and train teachers is getting positive reviews. The proposal sets aside nearly one billion dollars on staff development and recruitment, a jump as teacher shortages in schools multiply in rural and low-income areas. Plus there's also a shortage in high-needs subjects like science, math, bilingual education and special education. About \$300 million of the proposed education budget would be for new programs including stipends for those who will teach in areas where there are shortages, professional development money, and grants for student teachers in a residency type program.

Another bill being considered by Calif. lawmakers regarding Public Safety Power Shutoffs. The Rural Broadband and Emergency Infrastructure Grant Act of 2020 would change telecommunications laws so state fairgrounds are all set up with public access to internet, or broadband in emergencies. The bill was introduced Tuesday by Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters), Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) and Devon Mathis (R-Visalia). Aguiar-Curry says we need hubs for emergencies in wildfires and said that fairgrounds are a "meeting place". The fairgrounds have historically been used in wildfires as staging areas for firefighters and animals are also sometimes brought there, out of harms way. The bill also says it could also help improve recovery center options. So far the bill has not been moved on.

A series of planned power downs by PG&E will hit North Lakeport. Starting tomorrow for scheduled maintenance, about 50 residents will be impacted. Letters went out from the utility company to the customers about the work February 14th, 19th and 21st. Tomorrow will start at 6 am, the 19th at 9 a.m., the 21st overnight hours, starting at 11:30 p.m. on Thursday the 20th.

Another free medical and dental clinic is being held in Lakeport. Spectrum of LIGHT is hosting the clinic in 4 weekends, March 8th at 9:30 am at the Lakeport Community SDA Church, 1111 Park Way, Lakeport. There will be free dental cleanings and fillings, free A1C and glucose screenings, blood pressure, BMI, health age and vision screenings. They're also offering education and coaching for chronic conditions like Diabetes, high blood pressure and weight loss along with health lectures and cooking demonstrations with samples.

The enforcement of Measure V, top of mind to fight against wildfires. The initiative voted into law in 2016 says trees intentionally killed and left standing are a public nuisance, so those responsible could face fines. The law so the timber industry would stop leaving the dead trees standing. There are reportedly millions in the state which are considered a hazard to the environment and firefighters, but there's been a snag in how it's enforced. The County Attorney in Mendocino County is headed back to the Board of Supervisors with a plan next month that includes working with the timber industry on solutions after the board voted last week for better enforcement.

The Trump administration has been ordered to bring back a free hotline it shut down for detained immigrants to report custody condition issues. A preliminary injunction orders officials to restore the hotline which started in 2013. It had been run by a nonprofit called Freedom for Immigrants. The nonprofit says ICE turned the hotline off last summer after it was featured on the Netflix program, "Orange is the New Black". After that immigrants had to pay up to \$1/minute to call the nonprofit on a line the government started to monitor. ICE claimed the nonprofit misused the hotline, and said it was not monitored or recorded.

The dastardly drought is back. The U.S. Drought Monitor's weekly report shows nearly 10% of California including the central and southern Sierra Nevada and other nearby areas of the Central Valley are in moderate drought. The state's been mostly drought free in early December. The Drought Monitor also says San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties, and parts of northeastern California are "abnormally dry". And a week before this report it was abnormally dry in the Central Valley and land from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Sierra, and parts of the California-Oregon border. Snowpack is also reported at less than 60% of normal to date. The National Weather Service reports there's no change in store these next couple weeks, and if there's none it could be close to the driest combined January and February on record.

Measure C, one of nine measures on the Presidential Primary ballot next month is being unanimously supported by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The initiative for the Mendocino Coast Health Care District to enter into a lease agreement for the hospital, clinic and for other services to Stone Point Health, part of Adventist Health. The Mendocino Coast Health Care District is still going to own the hospital, but would be getting payments from the lease to Adventist. A majority of voters will have to support Measure C which is looking for a 30-year lease. The Measure spells out that Adventist will keep running the hospital's emergency medical services and

02/14/20 acute hospital inpatient and outpatient services.

A new survey from the Lakeport Police Department for community members looks for feedback. The police department asking for the public to fill out the survey which covers community policing, law enforcement and procedural justice and how cops treat residents and show concern. The Chief Brad Rasmussen reports they're working with the Lakeport Economic Development Advisory Committee and Mendocino College Lake Center Police Community Relations class on the survey which is being produced in Spanish and English. You can do it online or find them printed out at the police station or Lakeport City Hall. They're also handing them out at a community policing town hall March 5th at City Hall. They're looking for at least 500 responses for a valid survey, but are hoping for as many as 1,000.

A public forum is being held for the four candidates running for the District 5 supervisorial seat. The event is being hosted by Lake County News next Wednesday night at 6 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors chambers. Longtime Supervisor Rob Brown is leaving his seat. The four running to replace him, Kevin Ahajanian of Cobb; retired pharmacist Bill Kearney of Kelseyville; Educator Jessica Pyska, of Cobb; and another educator, Lily Woll, from Kelseyville. The news site is preparing questions for the candidates and community members can also submit questions to the editor of the news site, Elizabeth Larson. They will also be recording the forum if you can't make it. [el Larson@lakeconews.com](mailto:el Larson@lakeconews.com).

A new ruling by the Calif. Supreme court says workers at state Apple stores have to get paid for time they spend waiting on managers or security guards to search their bags to see if they're trying to steal something. Also the justices have agreed the class action ruling will be retroactive from July 25th of 2009 to now. There are 52 Apple stores in the state. The case went to the Supreme Court after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it was of extreme importance to numerous employees and employers in California. Court papers say it takes from five to 20 minutes to go thru the screening and can sometimes take up to 45 minutes on busier days.

A new report says four law enforcement agencies have not been following the law when it comes to the privacy of drivers they gathered piles of data on while tracking them. The California Auditor released a review of policies and procedures of automated license plate readers from the Los Angeles and Fresno police departments and the sheriff's offices in Marin and Sacramento counties. The auditor says they had not been following a 2016 state law designed to protect privacy. As you may know the readers take pictures of your license plate. Then police departments keep that info so they can find stolen cars, criminals or even witnesses and missing persons.

You can now change your party affiliation and update your mailing address at polling stations on election day. The new law just goes into effect in time for the March 3rd Presidential Primary election. The Governor signed the bill into law yesterday which will allow the state's 5.6 million independent voters to register with a party, signing just one form on election day. The Democratic presidential campaigns reportedly hoping they'll get more registered Democrats and participation that way. 28% of California's registered voters are said to be No Party Preference.

A state worker who said he was fired for being a whistleblower has settled a lawsuit. Mark DeSio is now a spokesperson for the state Treasurer's office. His lawyer though says he settled but didn't say how much money he's getting for cooperating in a bunch of investigations into a tax agency. Court papers say he settled, but the case was not dismissed after a set of audits into the Board of Equalization. He was one of the sources into the tax agency where he worked in 2016 and 2017. The investigations showed nepotism, questionable hiring, and elected board members misusing public employees for events not necessarily related to collecting taxes.

One died, and two others seriously injured in a single-car accident in Clearlake Oaks. Officials say the crash happened Saturday shortly before 5 pm on Highway 20 at Morine Ranch Road. When officials arrived on the scene, they found a dark-colored SUV that had crashed into a tree.

Firefighters found one person already dead and two others trapped inside the vehicle. The two had to be extricated from the SUV, and they were then airlifted to trauma centers. No identifications have been released at this

02/17/20 time.

Coming up on March 5th, the Lakeport Police Department will be holding a community town hall from 6 pm until 7:30 pm at the city hall. Topics that will be covered will be Lakeport Community Policing Survey, the neighborhood watch program, the police dog program, Lakeport crime statistics, legislation affecting public safety, crisis intervention, and police recruitment. The goal of the town hall is to inform the public about its current operations and plans for the future. There will also be a chance for folks to ask questions and to provide feedback. For further information, go to the Facebook event page, Lakeport Community Policing Town Hall Meeting.

The Lakeport City Council this week will be considering whether to increase parking fines and penalties as well as get the midyear budget update. The council meeting is tomorrow night at 6 pm in the council chambers at the Lakeport City Hall.

The California Highway Patrol arrested a Willits woman for running a bicyclist over after getting into an argument with him. 37-year-old, Janice Longerier allegedly had been fighting with a 31-year-old man on a bike. The incident happened at 10 am on February 14th at the intersection of Locust Street and County Road 315. She allegedly ran the man over on purpose and then drove away. CHP said that her husband, 37-year-old Eugene Stephens, and her son-in-law 23-year-old James King helped her flee the scene and hide evidence. All three were arrested on Friday. Longerier was charged with attempted murder; Stephens and King were both charged with conspiracy and being an "accessory after the fact." The victim was airlifted to a hospital with significant injuries.

A California senator wants to allow cities to fine short-term rental hosts who violate local property rental laws. Senator Steve Glazer plans to unveil the legislation today, which would fine those rule-breaking hosts up to five-thousand dollars.

The City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission meeting that happened last week focused on a project that Spring Pond Properties is working on at the former mill site, which is the removal of hazardous trees. In October of last year, the Spring Pond Properties applied for an emergency permit in order to remove four trees that could potentially fall onto the highway. The permit was granted, and the trees were removed in January. The item discussed was whether to approve a Coastal Development Permit for the four trees plus two additional that is not part of the emergency permit.



The price of wine is dropping quickly. It is expected to drop to its lowest levels in five years due to a surplus of California grapes. Experts say the cheaper prices could last up to three years. However, the demand for wine has decreased. If there is not enough demand to support increased production, the surplus grapes go to waste.

The Fort Bragg City Council ok'd the relocation of a water main, apply for a grant to help fund new water meters, and revise the city's Water Department shut-off policy as required by state law. The Pudding Creek Water Main Relocation Project was unanimously approved by the council. They are planning to relocate about 1,000 feet of the 10-inch main. The committee also plans to replace the city's water meter, which has a price tag of 2.9 million dollars. The city is applying for a grant that would fund the new meters. The new meters would be 100% accurate for ten years, provide early leak detection alarms to the city and customers. Customers would be able to track their water usage with a mobile app.

The Ukiah Planning Commission approved a permit for the cannabis dispensary that will include cultivation in a building along East Smith Street near the Ukiah Library. The commission was split on approving the permit. Some worry about the odors that will come from the building. Others are delighted because the building is currently an eyesore, and this is an opportunity to bring it up to code and rehab the structure.

The Lake County Registrar of Voters Office needs volunteers for the election observer panel to observe the activities that go on during the presidential primary on March 3rd. According to Lake County News, The purpose of an election observer panel is to provide the public with the opportunity to observe and make suggestions on ways to improve the election process, assist in the integrity of the election process, encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process. Members of the panel visit one or more polling places on Election Day. Those on the election observer panel monitor the tabulation of ballots at the central ballot counting center at the Registrar of Voters Office on Election Night. If you or your organization would like to participate on the election observer panel, please notify the interim Registrar of Voters Diane Fridley before February 24th.

Willits has a new sustainability policy. The city council has said yes to the policy, which is part of its energy management plan. The guidelines say the city should commit to small changes to reduce energy use and use billing data to find ways to save. Once those steps are taken the city will then look at its facilities to see if there are any other conservation opportunities. City manager Stephanie Garrabant-Sierra calls it a basic plan that will help the city act responsibly to protect the environment. The council has also decided to look into energy audits to see if other changes could save both energy and money. City Council member Madge Strong thinks that is a good idea, noting that the Willits Sewage Treatment plant alone costs the city \$14,000 a year for electricity.

02/18/20

Willits High School has won another accreditation from a group that certifies schools. Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges has extended that accreditation though 2023. Superintendent Mark Westerberg telling the district board that the extension confirms Willits High is going in the right direction based on graduation rates, number of students on the honor roll, and other factors. The district says accreditation is important because it helps school leaders track how well the school is doing.

The Clearlake City Council will talk about the city budget at its meeting this week. They'll be doing a mid-budget year review and amending it if necessary. Also on the agenda at Thursday's meeting, consideration of a proposal to relocate the city Public Works corporation yard. That plan would move the yard from its current location on city airport property to a 21-acre site on city-owned site on Ogulin Canyon Road. City staff members say the airport property is valuable for commercial development and that the Public Works office and shop there are outdated and will need to be replaced eventually anyway. The Clearlake Council meets at 5 PM in the council chambers at city hall on Olympic Drive.

A new boss at Sutter Lakeside Hospital. Lake Co News reports that Scott Knight is settling in after his first day on the job as chief administrator on February 3. Knight is moving up—he was the assistant administrator before this. He replaces Dan Patterson who left the hospital in Lakeport for the Sutter Regional Hospital in Santa Rosa. During his time in Lake County Patterson served on the Lakeport Development Advisory Council besides his hospital duties.

More people are staying overnight in Ukiah. The city says revenues from its transient occupancy tax are up—way up. Officials say Ukiah brought in about 2 million dollars last year from the tax, which is a 26 percent increase from the year before. They say that's good news not only for the city's bottom line but for the entire economy because of the ripple effects from money visitors spend within the community. City staff says a change in marketing strategy in 2011 is among the factors behind the increase. The City Council will get a report on the higher revenue at its meeting Wednesday.

Some new faces on the Middletown Area Town Hall. Lake Co News reports that Lisa Kaplan and Rosemary Cordova have been chosen for two open seats. The Town Hall also picked its leadership for the coming year, with Tom Darms picked as chair, while Sally Peterson will be the vice-chair. The election was originally set for January but was put off until this month because of worries about how the election would be held and how the public would be notified about the vote. The next meeting of the Town Hall will be March 12.

Congressman Mike Thompson says he's happy that the US will not increase tariffs on imported wine. Thompson, who is a member of the congressional wine caucus, says increased tariffs would have hurt the state's multi-billion-dollar wine industry. Caucus members had written to US trade representative Robert Lighthizer opposing the additional tariff. The congressman says he'll work to make sure the next time tariffs come up, the wine industry will be protected. Thompson's fifth district includes parts of Lake, Napa, and Sonoma counties.

State lawmakers are considering a bill that would make voting mandatory. The proposal by assembly member Marc Levine would not impose any penalties for not voting. He says the goal is participation, not punishment. Levine is a Democrat and admits that his party would benefit if everyone voted because Democrats outnumber Republicans in the state by 2 to 1. About 75 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in 2016. Speaking of elections, the Presidential primary is two weeks from today and what California democrats decide could go a long way to decide who will challenge President Trump in the fall.

The US Census is gearing up and the Census Bureau is looking to hire. Lake County residents will have a chance to find out more about those jobs tomorrow at an information session in Upper Lake. The Census Bureau says it will need thousands of temporary workers to talk to people who did not return their Census forms. The meeting is from noon to 5 at the Upper Lake branch of the Lake County Library on Second Street. If you're interested and can't make it, there is information available on the website [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

A trial date has again been set for a man accused of a double murder in Clearlake in October 2017. The Record-Bee reports 64-year-old Alan Ashmore is scheduled for a jury trial on March 4 in Lakeport. He is accused of killing his father, Douglas Ashmore, and another man named Richard Braden. He is also charged with the attempted murder of three CHP officers. The case has wound through the courts and has seen several possible trial dates come and go as doctors evaluated Ashmore's mental capacity. He remains in custody.

CHP says its officers may have saved a life when they rescued a man who was apparently thinking of killing himself by jumping off a Mendocino County Bridge. The officers responded to a call about a man sitting on the edge of the bridge on Highway 101 just north of Confusion Hill early Saturday morning. That's where they found the man, who police say was intoxicated and talking about suicide. Even though he became uncooperative, officers were able to get the man safely off the bridge railing. He was taken Adventist Health Ukiah Valley where he underwent a mental health evaluation.

The city of Clearlake is taking bids for improvements at its animal control facility. The winning bid will be announced on March 12th. Those bids will be sealed until then.

Some highly acclaimed wildlife films are getting a screening in Ukiah over the next few weeks. Starting this Friday, the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project is showing some of the top movies from this year's International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula Montana. The showings will continue on Friday evenings through March 20th at the Ukiah Civic Center. There is a suggested ten dollar donation that will support the RVOEP, which is a program in the Ukiah Unified School District that teaches kids about the environment in the classroom and on field trips.

New satellite pictures out today show the dry winter has left the Sierra Nevada snowpack significantly lower than last year. That could spell trouble ahead because a healthy snowpack is vital to

California's water supply, providing about 30 percent of the water used in the state. Even though forecasters say it's too soon to speculate about another long drought, there is a concern about what will happen. This is one of the wettest times of the year for the Sierra Nevada, so the snowpack could increase before it starts to melt in the spring. The long-range forecasts, however, suggest the dry conditions will continue

A woman from Nice is accused of leading police on a chase that at one point hit 112 miles an hour on Highway 29. The Lake County Sheriff's office says 37-year-old Miranda Ellingwoodestrella was driving a stolen car when cops tried to stop her Saturday afternoon around 3:30. Officers say she took off but was finally pulled over on Highway 175 after that high-speed pursuit. According to a release from the sheriff's office, Ellingwoodestrella was uncooperative and acted suspiciously, so a deputy had to fire a beanbag round that hit her in the leg. She was eventually arrested and was booked into the county jail on \$35,000 bond. Charges against her include vehicle theft, evading, and possession of a stolen vehicle. She is also on felony probation for burglary in Mendocino County.

02/19/20

A man from Clearlake is facing several charges after he was arrested following a chase on Highway 53. Sheriff's deputies say 65-year-old Ronald Antoni took off when they tried to pull him over for making an illegal U-turn near Olympic Drive on Sunday night. The pursuit eventually ended when Antoni pulled into the parking lot of Adventist Hospital. Deputies say he told them he was trying to get to the hospital and also admitted he had a few drinks and had smoked meth. He was booked into the county jail on charges of evading, reckless driving, and DUI.

Two Lake County first responders have been cited for bravery by congressman Mike Thomson. The congressman says Sheriff's Deputy Marc De La Torre and Lake County Fire Protection District Chief Willie Sapeta have received his Fifth District Public Safety Hero of the Year Award. Thomson says both have served with distinction and gone above and beyond the call of duty to help out in emergency situations. Deputy De la Torre was specifically honored for saving the life of a child who had become unresponsive in its mother's arms, while Chief Sapeta was recognized for his leadership during the devastating wildfires over the past several years.

Small businesses in the Cobb area are now eligible for low-interest loans through the Cobb Area Council. The loans have an interest rate of 2 percent will range from \$2,500 to \$7,500 and can be used for costs related to wildfires, the public safety power shutoffs, or business start-up and expansion. Larger loans will also be considered. Cobb Area Council Economic Development Committee Chair Jessica Pyska says the money for the loans comes from a \$200,000 grant awarded late last year by the Federal Home Loan Bank. The Area Council and the Office of Community Development Services have more information.

Two people are in isolation at a hospital in Napa with concerns about the Coronavirus. Both were passengers on that cruise ship who were evacuated off Japan and flown to Travis Air Force Base earlier this week. One of them tested positive for the virus on the ship, the other tested negative there, but has since shown symptoms. 5 cruise passengers were taken to hospitals in Solano County after they landed at Travis, but doctors say there weren't enough isolation beds for the two who ended up at Queen of Peace Hospital in Napa.

California insurance commissioner Ricardo Lara is facing a lawsuit from a consumer group over records related to his campaign. Consumer Watchdog wants to see Lara's calendar and get more details about his meetings with insurance executives who donated to his last campaign. The commissioner says that information is privileged and not for the public. The meetings involved campaign donors who had ties to a company called Applied Underwriters, which had issues before the state insurance commission which Lara heads. He says the donations and meetings did not effect any commission decisions

California lawmakers are discussing a bill that would prohibit insurance companies from canceling or not renewing policies for homeowners who live in communities that meet state standards for protection against wildfires. The proposal would also require financial incentives to homeowners who have taken fire risk reduction steps on their property. Backers say more people in fire-prone areas have seen their policies canceled and that it is unfair for insurance companies to penalize those who live in places that have tried to minimize the risk.

A new poll says Bernie Sanders is widening his lead in California, less than two weeks before the March 3rd primary. The Public Policy Institute poll shows Sanders with 32 percent support of likely Democratic voters, with Joe Biden at 14 percent, Elizabeth Warren at 13 percent and Michael Bloomberg and Pete Buttegeig at 1 percent. It is Sanders' biggest lead since the PPC polling started last summer and it is also the best showing for Bloomberg. Those asked say the ability to defeat President Trump will be the most important consideration when they vote.

The Ukiah City Council scheduled to take up plans for a new look on State Street this evening. The project is referred to as the Road Diet because it will shrink the number of lanes from 4 to 2 each way with a turn lane in the middle. The city hopes the work will make downtown more pedestrian-friendly and slow smooth traffic with the addition of the turn lane. There will also be new traffic signals, sidewalks repairs, and the addition of bike racks and outdoor dining locations. The winning bid of 6.45 million dollars was submitted by Ghilotti Construction of Santa Rosa. The contract is on the agenda for the council's regular meeting which starts at 6:00

A rough start to the morning for several businesses on North State Street in Ukiah. Trevor Thurston, who owns Thurston Auto Plaza, tells KWINE that around 120 tires at several locations up and down North State Street had their tires slashed overnight—adding up to several thousand dollars worth of damage. Thurston says his surveillance video from about 12:30 this morning shows someone on his lot but the image isn't clear enough for a description of the suspect. He hopes that anyone on that part of North State who has video or any other information contacts the sheriff's office, which is investigating what happened.

CHP says a man from Ukiah has died in a crash on Interstate 5 in Yolo County. The man was killed in a three-vehicle collision on Thursday near Woodland. A woman in the car he was driving was seriously hurt while two children were less seriously injured. All three are also from Ukiah. The names of those involved have not been released.

A report out today says California needs to improve special education programs. The nonprofit group called Policy Analysis for California Education says schools are organized in a way that keeps disabled kids from reaching their potential. The authors say teachers need more training, programs need to be streamlined and students need more individual attention. About 725,000 children take part in special ed programs at school in California.

Property crimes in Lakeport went down last year but there was a slight uptick in violent crime. Lakeport Police Chief Brad Rasmussen outlining those numbers at this week's meeting of the city council. He says burglaries dropped from 59 in 2018 to 28 last year, while the number of reported larcenies was up slightly. 2019 also saw 3 rapes, 7 robberies, and 78 assaults. All those figures were up a bit from the year before. The chief also told the council that 2019 was a busy year for his officers with 17 percent more calls which were handled by a staff that was 17 percent smaller. He says that could be one reason that police response times increased year to year. Council members say the department is doing a good job both

02/20/20 preventing crime and answering calls from people who need help.

The council also took up parking at its regular Tuesday meeting. Tickets will now go up between \$15 and \$25, depending on the violation. The last time those fines went up was 2009.

Lake County voters will have two choices for superior court judge when they vote on March 3rd, but neither will actually have their name on the ballot. The Lake Co News reports that DA Felony Prosecutor Lisa Proffit-O'Brien has turned in enough signatures to qualify as a write-in challenger to incumbent Judge David Markham. Markham had missed the December deadline to have his name printed on the ballot so he will be a write-in candidate too. Interim Registrar of Voters Dianne Fridley says both candidates will have to spend time making sure their supporters know that they'll need to do more than check a box when they get in the voting booth. It's been a busy week for Fridley and her staff. In addition to reviewing Proffit-O'Brien's paperwork, Tuesday was the last day for voter registration for the election that is now less than two weeks away. Mail-in voting has already started.

The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority says a fire in a shipping container on Leslie Street was probably started by someone who left a warming or cooking fire unattended. That fire Wednesday morning was quickly put out, but acting battalion chief Justin Buckingham says it shows how dangerous those fires can be if they aren't carefully watched. He says his department has been on several similar runs in the past few weeks.

Health officials say people in Lake County shouldn't lose any sleep over the risk of coronavirus. Two patients are being treated for the illness in Napa County but Lake County Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says he is confident that doctors in Napa are doing their jobs and limiting any contact with those patients, so there is very little chance that anyone else there—or here—will get sick. Dr. Pace says his office is watching the coronavirus outbreak carefully and is in regular contact with state health officials to get the latest information. The two people being held in isolation in Napa were among the American passengers evacuated from a cruise ship off the coast of Japan and taken to Travis Air Force Base earlier.

Coronavirus has grabbed the headlines, but the flu has killed 328 people in California since the season began. The latest figures from the state department of health show deaths from the flu are up 58 percent from this time last year. Doctors say the numbers will continue to rise as more cases are reported. It has been a bad flu season, especially for children because the current strain of the virus is harder for them to fight off. Doctors say people need to remember to use good hand hygiene and stay home if they do sick.

The DMV office in Ukiah will be open this Saturday to make things easier for people who need to replace their current driver's license with a new federally compliant REAL ID. The state wants people to get those new licenses now, well before the deadline of October 1st. If you don't have one by then, you won't be able to get on a plane or enter secure federal buildings or military bases. Applicants have to bring additional ID including one verified proof of identity such as a valid passport or birth certificate, one proof of Social Security number and two proofs of California residency such as a bank statement or utility bill. People whose names have legally changed will have to show proof of that as well. The special Saturday hours in Ukiah are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is more information about all of this on the website [Realid/dmv.ca.gov](http://Realid/dmv.ca.gov). By the way, if you want to make sure the license you carry now is compliant, look for a symbol of a bear with a gold star in the upper right-hand corner.

Traffic is flowing again after a serious crash this morning on Highway 101 south of Hopland. CHP reporting one person was hurt in that crash that involved 4 vehicles southbound near the Green Bridge around 8:00. All lanes were blocked for a time and traffic was jammed but the road is reopened. No word on what caused the wreck.

The city of Ukiah is allowing a cannabis facility to expand into a new building. Emerald Sun is planning to move part of its operation to a building on Airport Road. The Daily Journal reports the permit allowing the expansion is conditional, pending a site visit to make sure all the information used to approve it is correct. The building had previously been part of the former Mendocino Brewing company.

The Clearlake City council is talking about a mid-year budget adjustment of about \$650,000. That adjustment is part of a review that's done halfway through the fiscal year. Among the changes—budgeting \$500,000 for a bond for the planned Hope Center homeless and healthcare facility on Emerson Street. City officials say their review has found that the budget is in good shape and may even result in some savings when the final numbers come in when the fiscal year ends.

Some old records kept by the city of Willits may soon be going through the shredder. The City council has agreed to destroy those documents related to the cleanup at the old Remco Hydraulics Building because there isn't enough space to keep them. 70 boxes have been stored since 2006 at a storage facility in Ukiah that is now going out of business. All of the cases related to the cleanup have been settled and so there is no need for the documents any longer, some of which date back far as 1995. The records could be spared if anyone wants to take them off the city's hands at no cost.

A judge has ruled that the state can't force California's property insurance pool to write comprehensive policies. Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara had ordered the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan to offer broader policies but the judge says the law only allows for basic coverage. The FAIR plan is known as the insurer of last resort for people who otherwise can't get fire insurance through no fault of their own. It is funded by insurance companies who have to pay in if they want to do business in the state who argued that offering comprehensive coverage would destabilize the insurance market. Thousands of people in fire risk areas have had their policies canceled or not renewed and have turned to the plan for help.

CHP says a man from Upper Lake was seriously injured in a four-vehicle crash on Highway 101. Officers say 26-year-old Edgar Moso was heading north near the Green Bridge when a southbound pickup veered into his lane and hit him head-on around 8:00 AM on Thursday. The impact spun Moso's Volkswagen Jetta across the road where it was hit again by a semi and another vehicle. He was airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. The pickup driver was less seriously injured and two other people were treated and released at the scene. The wreck snarled traffic for about 3 hours. CHP is investigating.

02/21/20

A woman accused of sex trafficking in Lake County has been sentenced to probation. Lake Co News reports 29-year-old Krystina Pickersgill will be on probation for three years after she pleaded guilty to charges that she and her husband sold young local girls into prostitution in the Bay area in 2018. Prosecutors say several charges involving four other victims were dropped as part of the plea deal. A judge had refused to accept an earlier plea bargain in January 2019. Pickersgill's husband, Sam Massette, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in December 2018.

The first confirmed case of Coronavirus has been reported in Humboldt County. The Humboldt County Health Department says the two residents were evaluated at St Joseph's Hospital in Eureka last Sunday and that one tested positive for the virus while another showed symptoms. Both are in self-quarantine at home and monitored by doctors. The health department says they pose no risk to the community. Health officer Dr. Theresa Frankovich says it's not surprising that cases are showing up in Humboldt County because of the amount of foreign travel done by people who live there. She also says more cases are possible in travelers who return from abroad.

Passengers of a cruise ship evacuated to Travis Air Force Base in Solano County due to concerns about Coronavirus are free to go home. 178 people from the ship have been in quarantine at Travis since they got back to the states on Monday. 6 of those passengers were immediately sent to a hospital in Nebraska, while another 16 were taken to hospitals near the base after they were evaluated. The CDC says the people who were cleared to leave pose no risk to anyone else.

The Mendocino National Forest is offering two roadside hazard tree fire salvage sales for bids early next month. The Forest Service will accept sealed bids at the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office at 825 North Humboldt Ave in Willows at 10:30 on March 4. The trees are in an area northeast of Upper Lake and in another northwest of Stonyford. They include Douglas Fir, White Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, and Incense Cedar. The National Forest website has information on the sale and how to bid.

The Lucerne Elementary School district is looking for volunteers to serve on an oversight committee to monitor spending from a 2016 bond issue. That 4 million dollar bond is being used for improvement at district schools. The committee will have seven members including 2 representatives of the community at large and representatives from businesses, senior citizens, parents, the PTO, and taxpayers. Once selected, they will look over staff reports to make sure the bond money is being spent as intended. Applications are due to the superintendent's office on Country Club Drive by next Friday.

Lakeport is looking for a Director of Community Development. A posting on the city's website says qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, application, and three references by March 23rd. The job pays between \$89,500 and \$109,400 a year.



A woman from Upper Lake says quick action and teamwork by the Northshore Fire department saved her life after a heart attack. The Record-Bee says 82-year-old Marjorie Kohler was airlifted to Santa Rosa on February 12th after a call to 9 1 1. She is now recovering at home. She met with first responders this week and says without them, she might not have survived

The Redwood Valley Calpella fire department will be doing a training burn on Saturday. That burn is planned for 3901 Black Bart Trail in Redwood Valley starting at 8:00 AM and it should be over by 3:00 PM.

A judge has approved a settlement in a civil rights case that accused the state of not doing enough to help kids learn to read at dozens of poor-performing schools. The agreement calls for the Department of Education to spend 50 million dollars to beef up education programs in those schools and to improve reading programs statewide. The group that filed the suit back in 2017 says the settlement is a milestone that will transform California's approach to literacy.

Mendocino and Lake counties are now included in the US drought monitor's list of counties that are considered abnormally dry. That designation now covers almost 60 percent of the state, up from 46 percent a week ago. Another 9.5 percent is considered in a more serious moderate drought condition. The conditions now favor another summer of higher risk of wildfires unless we get significant rain in the next two months. Experts say there is still hope that March will bring adequate rainfall but there long-range forecast shows no relief in sight. The drought monitor blames a persistent weather pattern that has kept the rain to the north and south of California for the last several weeks.

Work could start as soon as next month on Ukiah's downtown streetscape project. The City Council has approved an almost 6.5 million dollar contract for work that will narrow State Street from 4 lanes to 2, with a middle turning lane, make the street more pedestrian-friendly, add new traffic signals and provide bike racks and opportunities for outdoor dining. There was no opposition at this week's council meeting to approve the project, in fact, there was strong support. Some of those who spoke said they have seen many near misses as people try to walk across the street and are anxious for the job to start. That could come in Mid-March after the city sits down for a pre-construction meeting with Ghilotti Construction of Santa Rosa which submitted the lowest bid on the project.

The Lucerne Area Town Hall had Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin as the featured speaker. Last Thursday, the Sheriff spoke on several issues including homelessness, sheriff's office staffing and other topics. Martin told the room about the rights for those who go to live in vacant homes, so-called, squatters. Abandoned properties include foreclosures, a home where someone dies, and it remains empty or vacation homes where the owners live outside the area. The Sheriff says there are cases where his department is limited on what they can do, but trespassing is different, and they can do more there. The Sheriff says nearly 2 dozen positions have been cut from the agency, but they have five new sheriff trainees in the academy, starting their jobs in June. Residents were also able to ask questions after the presentation, and those touched on staffing shortages,

02/24/20 response times and the homeless.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors takes up cannabis policy and recommendations from the Cannabis Cultivation Ad Hoc Committee. At their meeting tomorrow, the Supes will also consider starting a Local Equity Program for growers who have not been working in the legal market and how to change that. They'll also consider putting in money for the long talked about feasibility study on possible licensing for the Potter Valley Project. The board has a busy morning tomorrow as they'll also listen to a presentation from the Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue on non-lethal wildlife exclusion services to help get rid of certain animals encroaching on buildings and homes. Several proclamations and awards will also be presented.

More state aid is being considered for college students in the state so they can pay for housing, books and food and other non-tuition expenses. These are just some of the ideas proposed for California's financial aid system. A presentation was made by the State Student Aid Commission last Thursday. It shows community college students would be benefitted the most with more than 300,000 more community college attendees becoming eligible for Cal Grants. Students at other schools in the University of California or California State University systems would not get more financial aid, but they could still be eligible for Cal Grants for tuition and other fees.

A new location is being considered for the Clearlake Public Works corporation yard. The City Council looking at a potential relocation for the yard which is on the Pierce Field airport property, which the city owns. But the city's looking at a potential sale of the property. So the council's considering instead some city-owned property on Ogulin Canyon Road. Lake Co News reports the city's consulting engineer showed the council analysis of two sites on the other property, one on top of a hill and the other, below. The only problem is the yard wouldn't be able to grow by that much in the new location.

The homeless problem in Santa Rosa has a new wrinkle as the Governor's proposed putting emergency homeless shelters in an area of state-owned open space that was being considered for a greenway project with housing and shops. The Press Democrat reports the development on open space owned by Caltrans, is set for a green trail, more than 200 apartments and 12,000 square feet of commercial space. The City Council also just unanimously voted to convert the land for the project. But now the Governor's office says they're not forcing the city, or any other, to use the site, it's just an offer. And the office says Governor Newsom wants to be "flexible" about shelter types.

A special meeting's being held by the Lakeport City Council on a project for a new sidewalk at Library Park. The meeting tonight on the Library Park Sidewalk Replacement Project is the only matter on their agenda. The proposed \$400,000 project with one bid only, just under that number after the engineer projected a cost of more than \$435,000. After the storms of early 2017 and 2019, the area was damaged beyond repair. The seawall, as you may recall is being replaced. Now the sidewalk needs to be pulled out and replaced. FEMA and insurance are covering most of the construction which could start in the middle of next month.

A man in Clearlake has been arrested on drug and weapons charges after a chase. Cops say 27 year old Steven Farnan was pulled over after it was found he had an expired registration and was driving without a license. The probable cause stop turned up a concealed loaded firearm and possession of more than half an ounce of heroin. Farnan was contacted thru the driver's side window at a gas station and tried to get away, but he was stuck. The police officer say a handgun in the guy's waistband which he tried grabbing before getting out of the car, so the cop tased him. He was booked into jail after it was also found he was on Post Release Community Supervision and had previous weapon-related arrests.

The Lake County Registrar of Voters Office has announced the date for a public manual tally for the March 3rd primary in Calif. Monday, March 16th the public is invited to the registrar's office starting at 9 a.m. at the Lake County Courthouse. There will be a minimum of 1 percent of randomly selected precincts counted which will have all of the campaigns being voted on in the Presidential Primary Election included. The precincts are randomly selected though before the manual, public tally. Those who want to attend are warned they may not in any way interfere with the election process.

State Sen. Bill Dodd has introduced a bill so traffic will be a little easier to navigate through one Northern Calif. highway. The Senator says the legislation will help reduce traffic snarls on Highway 37 and protect the highway from sea level rise due to climate change. The senator says the time is now to improve the highway as it connects the community to jobs and supports the economy. The highway connects Sonoma, Solano, Napa and Marin counties with as many as 40,000 vehicles moving along the roadway daily. Plus twice as many cars and trucks are expected to drive over the highway over the next two decades. The legislation would bring a new toll so money could be raised for the improvements. There would be state and federal matching funds too. Senator Dodd's Facebook page had the announcement of the bill.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports a new phone scam. They would be crooks calling and saying they're from the Sheriff's office, but they are no way connected. The sheriff's office reminding they never call folks for donations on the phone or in person. They say if this happens for you, to immediately call the office and report it. They also remind the public not to make donations to any phone solicitors. Some asking for the money to be left under your front door mat, something they also frown upon. And also, never give your personal info over the phone to strangers, especially your social security numbers, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, or address.

5 people have been arrested after a call to an assault on a woman. On Saturday, the Sheriff's office got a call to Redwood Valley and found a woman was being taken to the hospital for injuries she got from the altercation with her boyfriend. Deputies also say while trying to investigate, a woman confronted them saying nobody else was there, but they said they heard people inside. KC Stillwell was arrested for lying and continuing to interfere with the investigation and a probation violation. Also Jessica Norton, Weston Riley and Nicholas Britton were found inside, some seemed high, one on parole and another on summary probation. Douglas Whipple was arrested for causing the injuries to the victim. Plus he was found with another man with a bunch of meth and syringes.

A woman from Willits has been arrested after a fire breaks out at a home her boyfriend owns. Mendocino deputies report getting a call last Friday and finding the home engulfed in flames. The man who lived there told cops he was threatened by Carley Schlapkohl. He says they were at the home and Schlapkohl became agitated and verbally hostile to him and threatened to cut his throat. He went on to say later in the evening, she jumped on him violently and assaulted him. After falling asleep he woke soon after to find his home on fire. The man escaped and called 911. Schlapkohl was found sitting in an abandoned vehicle and arrested for domestic violence battery and criminal threats and held on \$25,000.00 bail. The fire's under

02/25/20 investigation.

A fire training with the Redwood Valley/Calpella and Potter Valley Fire Districts takes a home down on Black Bart Trail. Fire crews were training to keep the home from completely being gutted, dealing with various fire behaviors. They also rescued fire victims, worked with fire hoses in various situations and worked with equipment. There were nearly 3 dozen firefighters on the scene of the residential structure fire. It was surrounded by other homes which they practiced protecting too. The home they worked on was set to be torn down.

A man from Chico has been arrested after a domestic disturbance in Fort Bragg. Deputies say they got a call to a car parked along the road in the 16000 block of North Highway 1 so they stopped to check on a man inside, Mathew Spencer. They say he was in the passenger seat and seemed overly nervous and that a woman was with him but disappeared. He also had a large knife on him, and they found an improvised weapon made from a stick. He also had a warrant out for his arrest for attempted robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, and being an accessory to a felony. The woman was found by police dog Takoda, she had been assaulted. Spencer was then arrested for felony domestic battery and battery resulting in serious bodily injury and booked on 345,000 dollars bail.

A man in Willits has been arrested after a woman called to say she was attacked by her husband. Deputies say the woman called from the Brooktrails subdivision to say Tavion Johnson showed up at her friend's house, where she was staying, pushed his way inside and he threw his keys at her face, injuring her. They say she had visible injuries matching the description of the altercation, so later Johnson was arrested. There was also a temporary restraining order against him at the time so he was booked into jail on \$25,000.00 bail.

Because a new gateway is planned in Middletown, the Middletown Area Merchants Association is looking for designers to submit sketches. The gateway to be 15 to 20 feet wide and 12 to 18 feet tall on the east side of Highway 29 by Perry's Deli. Those involved are looking for inspired ideas that could include landscapes like mountains, trees, rustic, rural lifestyle, big skies and stars. The association says its open to all sorts of various materials and that the archway should say something to do with the town or "Welcome to Middletown." They'd also like it to have a way for banners to be hung from it for current town announcements. They will be picking two or three sketches that will move on for the next phase. Send your scanned sketches or a picture of your sketch to:

[MiddletownDesignProjects@gmail.com](mailto:MiddletownDesignProjects@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 1616, Middletown, CA 95461. Further info, 707-809-8118.

Police in Fort Bragg on the case after finding a street sign busted in the middle of a sidewalk. Cops say last Saturday morning the sign was hit by a car so they followed an oil trail to a parked and abandoned car. They towed the vehicle and later found it to be the same car of a possible DUI which they had a Be on the Lookout warning for, earlier issued by the California Highway Patrol. The CHP had been actively searching for the same car for a hit and run crash at a Nor Cal Gas Station. Police went to the gas station and got surveillance video finding Sierra Kocher was the driver of the car, they say the video also showed signs of intoxication on it. There has not been an arrest yet, but all of the evidence has been sent to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

The Governor is calling for work on the homelessness crisis, focusing too on treating those with serious mental health illnesses and substance abuse disorders. Last week the Governor delivered his State of the State address saying some living on the street who are capable of accepting help, should be able to find a way to get off the street and into treatment. But he also mentioned how some have a, "grave disability". There's a project that's supposed to start next month to expand conservatorships without changing current state law, but that's just in San Francisco. Governor Newsom says he'd like to see the pilot project expand statewide.

The Lakeport City Council has unanimously approved replacing the sidewalk at Library Park with a construction company, Granite. The Library Park Sidewalk Replacement Project went to Granite Construction who turned in the lowest out of three bids. The replacement project, as we mentioned yesterday, after damage along with the seawall caused by winter storms in 2017 and again in 2019. Another contractor is already working to replace the cinder block seawall. FEMA money will pay for the new seawall and sidewalks. The council saying they'd like the whole project done by Memorial Day weekend, and any finishing work by July 4th.

Some changes coming to Clearlake after city staffers successfully get some grants. The City Manager gave an update at the last city council meeting after a bunch of applications were sent in to pay for improvements to infrastructure, more housing and prepare for more public safety power shutoffs. The City Manager Alan Flora says they got more than a quarter million dollars from the California Office of Emergency Services for public safety power shutoff impacts and preliminary approval for another \$160,000 for more housing. The city also being considered for at least \$200,000 to pay for upgrades to the bathrooms at Austin Park. The city is trying to get grant money for fixes after the Sulphur fire and they've also applied for money for the a veterans housing project, the Hope Center behind Adventist Health Clear Lake Hospital.

Legislators working on affordable housing announce several new bills that save money for those building and buying homes. The impact fees aid local governments in paying for schools, roads and parks. But lawmakers say they're still discussing how to replace the fees which, in some cases, can pay as much as a third of some cities entire budgets. Assemblyman David Chiu of San Francisco, the chair of the Assembly's Housing Committee says the fees are "well intentioned" but they've also been "an incredible impediment to development". One bill in the package would change how fees are determined, and two others would reimburse local governments who waive the fees or reduce the fees on affordable housing built in densely populated areas.

A Family Support Center is opening compliments of Lake County Behavioral Health Services. The announcement of the latest Peer Support Center in Middletown was named by students at Middletown High. There will be resources, referrals, and support for families in the County mental health system or if they need more information on available community resources. They have various support groups beginning including their Art Group, Homework Clubs for kids and Parent Partner groups to support parents and be their advocates. The official grand opening was on Valentines Day. The other Peer Support Group centers are in Clearlake Oaks, Lakeport and

02/26/20 Clearlake.

State Sen. Bill Dodd says he's working with a member of the Assembly to improve maternity care for women in the state. Dodd and Assemblymember Autumn Burke of Inglewood have announced legislation to expand access to maternity care and authorizing midwives to perform routine services. The proposal is sponsored by the California Nurse-Midwives Association and Black Women for Wellness. Dodd says women in California should not have to go without top-notch maternity care and increasing access to nurse-midwives could curtail that by improving outcomes especially for women in rural or inner-city settings.

Cleanup continues at the Bushay and Kyen Campgrounds at Lake Mendocino. The Army Corps of Engineers says they want the campgrounds open by Memorial Day for public use. A crew of temporary workers from a nonprofit out of Ukiah has been working with the Corps to get the Lake Mendocino campground sites in shape. They're paid through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor related to 2019 storm damage repairs. They're clearing downed trees, conducting vegetation management, and bringing roads and sites into a usable form again. Pricing will probably be going up at the campsites now though as FEMA upgraded some of the campsites so there's now power, water, and sewer.

An update for the Ukiah Planning Commission on operations at the new Homeless Services Day Center on South State Street. The Daily Journal reports city staff is required to get a report twice a year for the first couple of years connected to the permit granted to Redwood Community Services. The report will show since last August to now, there were no complaints about the shelter or those frequenting the services there. So staff has not recommended any changes to the operations. In December they recorded nearly 90 people there using the services daily for a total of almost 2,800 visits that month. They recorded about seven people being turned away daily since the shelter opened.

Someone who tested positive in Calif. for the coronavirus who was a passenger on a cruise ship in Japan is in Sonoma County. Public Health officials say the unidentified person was taken from Travis Air Force Base in Solano County to a local hospital on Monday. There was a whole group of international travelers at the base last week. They were all quarantined due to their possible exposure to the virus. Apparently the patient who had a confirmed case of the virus wasn't showing any symptoms. They are being monitored in isolation and they say there are no risks to public health.

Two legislators from the North Coast are trying to fight FEMA getting any disaster money back from victims. It comes after the agency threatened to try to get paid back by fire victims if money is found to have been distributed in error. Congressmen Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson are co-sponsoring the bill which was introduced this week by Republican Congressman of Missouri Sam Graves. Huffman and Thompson signed on to the bill which says the federal government cannot demand victims return aid, if it's found later to have been issued in error, and when there's no evidence of fraud. Huffman says FEMA shouldn't be "clawing back disaster relief funds from victims who have gone through terrible hardships".

The PG&E CEO Bill Johnson says the company was indeed negligent after several disasters and catastrophes that killed almost 140 people but that was before and they're better now. Johnson was talking to California regulators Tuesday saying poor management before his time was to blame and they're safer now than they were a year ago. The remarks after the company filed for its second bankruptcy in two decades. Johnson told the California Public Utilities Commission, there would be no more catastrophes and no more deaths. There have been demands for the board to be replaced and new management before the utility company can emerge from its latest bankruptcy filing.

The City of Lakeport has been awarded a multimillion-dollar grant for a new park at the old Natural High School site. The Lakeside park will be built with nearly \$6 million dollars on almost 7 acres at 800 N. Main St. It will include a new skate park, splash pad, basketball court, amphitheater, exercise circuit, five picnic areas with shade, concessions, a restroom building, parking lot, public art and landscaping and lighting. Plus there will be a facelift for a boat ramp that's already there. It's one of more than 60 projects being paid for by Proposition 68, a Statewide Park Program which is distributing its third round of awards. There were 478 applications for \$2.3 billion for the \$255 million available this time.

The 13.5 billion settlement PG&E has agreed to pay to victims of wildfires but several thousand people have filed to get a piece of the pie. Letters to the bankruptcy judge in the case complain that victims are at the bottom of the barrel in who gets paid out first. A hearing was set for today in the case to see if any federal or state agencies should get any money from the \$4 billion they paid out after wildfires in 2017 and 18. Adventist Health is also trying to get about \$1 billion due to its hospital in Paradise nearly destroyed in the Camp Fire. Plus, none of that even includes all of the legal fees. Victims are also complaining that half of the money to be paid out, is actually stock in PG&E.

A fire burning in the Covelo Ranger District is reported at 60 acres. The Baseball fire started yesterday from a pile burning 15 miles southeast of the city of Covelo near Atchison campground. The fire is reported at 5% containment with additional fire crews ordered yesterday. Fire officials say the conditions yesterday were a little windy and 70 degrees with a moderate rate of spread. No property or structures were being threatened.

There's a new executive director now for the Lake County Fair. The Board of Directors has chosen Sheli Wright who takes over for Courtney Conkle who resigned last fall to go work in Wyoming as the State Fair manager. Lake Co News reports Wright takes over as the Lake County Fair CEO March 16th. She's got experience too as an attendee who also grew up showing animals and participating at the Fair. There are other events besides the Fair too, year round events take place including car racing, the Lake County Rodeo and the soon to be happening, Lake County Ag & Natural Resource Day on March 28th.

A drive by shooting reported in Lower Lake and a suspect is arrested. The Lake County Sheriff's Dept. reports arresting Don West of Clearlake after the Sunday morning drive-by. Lake Co News reports there were actually two separate incidents West was connected to. Police say he also assaulted someone he was dating, broke thru the front door of their house and caused property damage to the tune of \$500 then ran away. Then someone driving says West pulled a black semiautomatic handgun on them from his driver's side window. They reported hearing two gunshots. Deputies pulled West over soon after but didn't find evidence of a gun. But the car that reported it did have a gunshot hole in it. West was arrested on several charges including suspicion of burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, shooting at an occupied vehicle and assault on a person with a semiautomatic firearm. He was held on \$300,000 bail.

The Baseball Fire has grown some, but the containment is a lot greater too. Fire crews say the fire on the Covelo Ranger District is now at 40 percent in the Mendocino National Forest. The fire is believed to have started from a pile fire in prescribed burn just before. It's now blackened 68 acres and is located about 15 miles southeast of Covelo near the Atchison campground.

The fire is burning in grass, brush and timber and is not threatening any property or structures. The forecast calls for dry weather with light wind and temps in the high-60s.

#### **PM NEWS:**

FEMA and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services are reportedly trying to separate claims with Pacific Gas and Electric from money that's been promised to wildfire victims, \$13.5 billion dollars. Right now victims, lawyers and some governmental agencies would share in the pot of cash. The government agencies say they are trying to get a separate deal and did not agree to the one already set aside. The governments are asking the giant utility to pay back costs they put forward to pay for damage caused by the company's faulty equipment. FEMA wants nearly \$4 billion and could go to victims to get paid back. And the state of Calif. is trying to get about \$2.6 billion. Cal Fire also has a claim.

The elections office in Ukiah says they're in desperate need of a Poll Inspector and Poll worker as someone has bowed out a week ahead of Super Tuesday and Calif.'s Presidential Primary. The inspector needed at Saint Mary's Polling Place. There's a training this Friday at the election's office. There's a small stipend for whoever is hired. Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm Tuesday. They're recommending the training session which is about 2 hours long to learn the ropes. Please call 707 234-6808 if you can help out. They're touting it as a great community involvement day for service organizations throughout the County.

A possible case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Calif. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the individual is a resident of Solano County and is being treated in Sacramento County. They say they don't know how this person was exposed. There is still a low risk for the general public, and residents should follow the rules they would when it's flu season, wash hands often, stay home if you feel sick, away from the general public and seek medical care if symptoms persist. State health officials say they're assessing the case and that keeping Californians safe and healthy is their number one priority. There's been two other cases of person to person transmission in the general public, that was in Chicago,

02/27/20 and another in San Benito County, California.



Another fishing tournament is coming to Clear Lake. The Clear Lake Crappie Association is sponsoring the tournament for two man teams. Signups for the March 28th event are already taking place at Lakeport Bait & Tackle in Lakeport and Limit Out Bait & Tackle in Clearlake Oaks. The first tournament was last Saturday. There were 33 teams. The teams can get a maximum of 10 fish which have to be at least 12 inches long. It's \$60 to enter and there's a \$5 insurance and tournament permit fee and a \$10 big-fish option.

A new program to help small cannabis growers in Mendocino County has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Mendocino County Equity Program will include county programs and services for neighborhoods and small growers in the County affected by past government cannabis policies. The new policy comes after a deep dive shows the criminalization of cannabis and the past war on drugs hurt residents in Mendocino County and put up obstacles for them to get involved in the industry or recover from cannabis laws that worked against them.

Budget fixes approved by the Lake County Board of Supervisors includes some major cost cutting. The Record Bee reports the board approved more than \$7.5 million in revenues above what was budgeted at the beginning of this fiscal year. That includes around \$200,000 for the county's general fund, \$4 million in allocations, including almost \$700,000 from the general fund. The newspaper also reports another \$4 million for "wildfire relief" divided in half, \$2 million to general reserves and \$2 million set aside in case of a possible financial audit. The County Administrative Officer says they're not anticipating an audit, but they're recommending the money be set aside for a couple years.

A man from Clearlake has a warrant out for his arrest for not appearing in court. The Record Bee reports Gabriel Cardenas Diaz is wanted for assault to produce great bodily injury, corporal injury to a spouse or cohabitant and intimidating a witness. It comes after cops went to a report of a man shooting a gun last month, finding Diaz went to confront his girlfriend and that's when he reportedly fired a gun several times while several people were there, including some kids. Three women were reportedly hit by bullets, one of them, pregnant. Diaz took off. Two victims reported in critical condition, including the pregnant woman. The third victim treated and released. Clearlake police consider him armed and dangerous and are asking for the public's help finding him.

Congressman John Garamendi has signed on to support preventing state and the federal government from getting money from the victim's settlement agreement with PG&E. Earlier this week we reported Congressmembers Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson also support the "Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act". Garamendi's office reports he's signed onto a group who sent a letter to the U.S. Attorney General Barr and California Attorney General Becerra so they'd drop claims to the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) settlement fund for California wildfire victims.

Several law enforcement agencies working to take violent offenders off the street arrest seven people in Lake County. Clearlake Police, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Parole and Lake County Probation had a special enforcement operation across Clearlake. They hit up two dozen locations confirming those on probation were complying with the law. Of the seven arrested, three were busted for felonies and four for misdemeanor offenses. Three homes were also found to have several code enforcement violations, making them unsafe to live in. Those were turned over to Clearlake Code Enforcement.

Willits police will be getting incentive benefits for dedicating themselves to the city. At a City Council meeting two weeks ago, members voted unanimously to go after a grant to pay cops incentive benefits \$2,000 in February and \$1,500 in August. Nine members of the force are eligible for the February payment, and probably the same for the second one in August. Also at the council meeting, a budget revision was made to cut one police officer position and a Police Corporal classification. Now the Police Department can revise their budget to have a Police Sergeant with an Advanced Post Certificate Title.

February is breaking records for being one of the driest in history. In the Bay Area, the driest February in 156 years. The Press Democrat reporting on the US Drought Monitor's weekly report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showing almost a quarter of the state is in a moderate drought, up about 20% over the last week. And the most in 13 months. 69% of the state is also classified as "abnormally dry." There's also no rain in the foreseeable future, sunny weather with high's in the 60s and 70s over the next week in Northern California. There's a small chance of drizzles this Sunday and maybe, looking further out, showers the second week of March.

Local health officials continue monitoring the coronavirus in Mendocino and Lake Counties. The Lake County Office of Education says they too are monitoring conditions but the threat of a local outbreak is low. The Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace sent a letter out to school administrators a couple of weeks ago recommending certain preventative measures to reduce the spread of the virus and the flu. Some of the recommendations include, encourage staffers and students to stay home if they have a fever, separate sick students and staff from others until they can go home, remind to wash hands and promote other ways to prevent germ spreading, like avoid touching your face, use proper cough etiquette, into a tissue or sleeve or arm, not hands. Schools in Lake County also say their custodial and other staff are working hard to keep surfaces disinfected and clean.

Governor Newsom says the state is monitoring 8,400 people for the coronavirus. That word comes as the CDC continues to look for people who may have been in contact with a woman who tested positive for the illness in Solano County earlier this week. She is the first person to get sick with no known connection to any of the travel-related cases so far. The governor says California has only 200 test kits for coronavirus but that more are on the way. Health officials say while there is no reason for panic, it is also no time to be complacent and that more cases are possible, even likely, in

02/28/20 California and the rest of the country.

A woman from Ukiah is being held on one million dollars bond on attempted murder and other charges. The Mendocino County Sheriff's office says 47-year-old Nicole Birdsall broke in and tried to stab her ex inside the woman's home on Faul Avenue early last Sunday morning. The victim suffered wounds to her abdomen and Birdsong was also cut. Both and were taken to Adventist Hospital, where Birdsong was arrested. Another woman in the home at the time was not injured.

A man from Ukiah is in jail after the Mendocino County Sheriff's office says he tried to get his pit bull to attack another man during a fight and also to attack the deputies who arrived to break it up. Deputies say they had to use their tasers to subdue 39-year-old Benjamin Kimpton when he turned the dog on them when they responded to a call about a fight on North State Street Thursday morning. The pit bull ran off after police fired pepper spray at the animal twice during the altercation. Kimpton was eventually subdued and now is charged with assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest, being under the influence, and violating his probation from another case. He is being held on thirty thousand dollars bond.

Burglary, robbery, and domestic violence charges against a man who the Mendocino County Sheriff's office says threatened to kill an ex-girlfriend. Deputies say 19-year-old Armando Gonzalez broke into the victim's home on Agnes Lane in Calpella early Sunday morning and assaulted her before he grabbed her cell phone and took off. Deputies say their investigation led them to Gonzalez, who turned over the phone which had text messages from him to the 18-year-old woman, saying he was going to kill her. Gonzalez was arrested and booked into the county jail on \$150,000 bond.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office says a man from Ukiah is accused of violating both his probation and a protective order. Deputies say 49-year-old ChalesSchlapkohl was arrested after a call about an unwanted person in a car on North State Street Wednesday afternoon. They say they found Schlapkohl with a woman who had a domestic abuse protection order against him. Officers say Schlapkohl was also on probation on another charge. In addition, he is accused of having drugs that deputies say they found on him he was being arrested. Schlapkohl is being held at the county jail without bail.

The ground was shaking in the Cobb area on Thursday afternoon. The USGS says a 3.5 magnitude earthquake around 3:30 was centered near Bear Canyon just over the line in Sonoma County. Reports came in from people who said they felt it in Kelseyville and Middletown and from folks in Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, and Santa Clara counties as well. No reports of any damage. Thursday's quake follows an earlier 3.7 magnitude shaker in Lake County around 10:30 on Wednesday morning.

A fire in the Mendocino National Forest near Covelo is 50 percent contained. The Basebal fire ground covers about 88 acres in Mendocino and Glenn counties and is burning in some steep, rugged terrain with no immediate threat to property or buildings. It apparently started in a pile that was part of an earlier prescribed burn in the area.

The state has increased its fine against PG&E for causing the devastating wildfires in 2017 and 2018. The utility is now on the hook for 2.1 billion dollars, up from a 1.7 billion dollar sanction that an administrative law judge imposed last December. The ruling also says shareholders, not customers, will have to cover the cost. PG&E says it is disappointed by that tougher punishment and is continuing to work hard to decrease the risk of future fires. 200 million dollars from the fine will go directly to California's General Fund

If you use Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa for your travels, you'll soon have two fewer destinations to choose from. The Press-Democrat says Sun Country is ending seasonal service to and from Las Vegas and Minneapolis because of low demand. The airport had been a stopover on those three weekly flights since 2017. The Sonoma to Vegas route could get picked up later this year or early next year by Alaska Airlines which recently added more flights starting this summer.

It's the last weekend before California's Super Tuesday primary. If you are filling out a mail-in ballot it will have to be back at the Registrar of Voters office by Tuesday. Voters have several local races and issues to decide on as well as the candidates running for President.

Over 200 tax-delinquent properties in Lake County are set to be sold in May after the Board of Supervisors voted to move forward with the auction. The council has been dealing with delays in those sales after complaints that the County Tax Collectors office had been dragging its feet going after property owners who hadn't paid up. Now, the first sales in months are scheduled on May 29th when 219 properties worth at least 3.6 million dollars will be up for bid. 118 of them are in Clear Lake which had called for an investigation into the backlog of unsold property. The auction will be online on a third party website, [bid4assets.com](http://bid4assets.com)

Police in Fort Bragg have arrested a man they say drove off when they tried to stop him on suspicion of drunk driving. Officers say witness reports of a possible drunk driver on Franklin Street on Thursday evening led them to 62-year-old Pergunnar Guinan of Fort Bragg, who is accused of DUI with prior convictions and evading. It took a spike stick which flattened his tires to eventually stop Guinan. A news release says he had a blood-alcohol level of 26, which is more than 3 times the legal limit when he was tested and booked at the county jail

The case against a man from Clearlake accused of vehicular manslaughter is moving forward. The Record-Bee reports that Thomas Magee was in court this week for a hearing in his case where the judge ordered further proceedings before a trial. Magee is facing charges in connection with a crash involving a pedestrian last September on Highway 20 in Lucerne. Prosecutors say it was no accident that Magee intentionally hit and killed 40-year-old Symond Jackson of Lucerne. His next court date is in late March and a preliminary hearing is on the court calendar April 22nd. Magee has been held on one million dollars bail since his arrest.

The city of Ukiah has decided to allow a parcel of land be split into three which has neighbors none too happy. They wanted an appeal, so it's split into two, not three parcels on North School Street. Neighbors had sent a letter to the city engineer saying there would be horrific traffic, but nobody spoke out against the project after it was approved. City Council members Jim Brown and Steve Scalmanini both said they'd fight for the neighbors, so now Brown has officially filed an appeal due to concerns about potential drops in property values and the possibility of flooding. The City Council is due to take up the proposed subdivision of the land Wednesday. But staff is recommending the council refer the appeal to the Ukiah Planning

03/02/20 Commission.

A contract has been approved for the interim Police Chief in Willits. The City Council approved the agreement with interim Chief Gregory Allen and also voted to accept a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Lakeport for police services. Today is the current Police Chief Scott Warnock's last day. The city manager says Warnock is retiring, putting in his notice about three months ago. Allen has agreed to step in until the city finds Warnock's permanent replacement. Allen has years of experience with nearly 35 years in the LAPD. He's also been the acting Willits Chief before. He will stay on for at least three months until a new chief is selected.

The second case of novel coronavirus in the US may have been from the patient who had it in Sacramento County. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported last Friday on the case and health officials in San Jose say the person identified was an older adult woman with chronic health conditions with no travel history or any known contact with a traveler or infected person. They say it's further evidence that there can be community transmission, but that's all they know so far. Public Health officials in Solano County say there are less than 100 people who may have had contact with another woman who was diagnosed first. Those people are all quarantined in their homes, and some of them who had some symptoms are in isolation.

It's voting day tomorrow in the Presidential Primary, and many other elected offices and initiatives. Calif. has their Primary for the first time in March, joining several other states on "Super Tuesday". More than 2.7 million of almost 20.5 million registered voters have reportedly already turned in their ballots. There's also a lot more going on behind the scenes, new voting equipment, vote centers have some new polling places in various counties and there's now expanded same-day voter registration. Turnout is expected to be around 50% for the election, and because the state allows ballots to come in three days after the election, it's possible we won't have a winner in the Democratic Presidential Primary race by tomorrow night. There will also be a few names on the ballot of folks who've dropped out, notably Billionaire Tom Steyer, and Mayor Pete Buttigieg. The two dropping out in the last week.

Decision being made about what to do with tax money gathered from Cannabis growers in Lake County. It's been three years since Measure C passed and two years after an ordinance was put in place to regulate commercial cannabis cultivation. About \$1.3 million has reportedly been collected so far. The Lake County Counsel Anita Grant will talk to the Board of Supervisors on the collection and proration of the cannabis tax. So far the county has sat on the money collected. Last week Grant told the Board they could follow whatever course of action they wanted including enforcement, education and environmental protection. The ordinance puts forth a \$1 per square foot tax on outdoor grows, \$2 per square foot on mixed-light, and \$3 per square foot on indoor operations.

More than 200 properties are going up for auction in Lake County. The Record Bee reports the sales in response to demands by local government to sell the properties because their owners are not paying property taxes. Last fall the City of Clearlake sent notice to the county and the state asking for investigations into the Lake County Tax Collector's Office for not selling the properties in tax default. At the time the County tallied more than \$18 million for 12,500 properties in the County, with more than 3,500 in Clearlake alone. Since then the Lake County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to move forward with a tax-defaulted land sale in May.

A new law that went into effect this weekend allows cannabis retailers to give free cannabis or cannabis products to those with medical marijuana prescriptions or to their primary caregivers. On Sunday the law went into effect allowing licensed cultivators, manufacturers, distributors, retailers or microbusinesses to donate marijuana or products they have in their inventory for donation. There are requirements though to follow, the products have to come thru a licensed supply chain, they have to pass regulatory compliance testing, an authorized licensee or nonprofit can donate, the donation must be recorded, and the product has to be labeled, "FOR MEDICINAL USE ONLY".

Some reports to the Mendocino County Election's Office that some folks who registered to vote never got their mail-in-ballot. But the Mendocino Voice newspaper reports if you're one of them, you can probably still vote by provisional ballot at a polling station, or local polling place. You can also drop off your mail in ballot, if you get it, at any polling place. Those who are eligible to vote in California but did not register can also register on election day, tomorrow, and cast a conditional ballot, as part of the new same day registration law. Covelo does not have a polling station. Polls close at 8 p.m tomorrow. Votes that are cast tomorrow at polling places and mail in ballots the office has received should all be counted by tomorrow night, or by Wednesday morning.

Unlicensed contractors in Lake County busted in a sting operation. Lake Co News reports a state sting by the Contractors State License Board. The undercover operation found nearly a dozen unlicensed contractors in Clearlake Oaks alone. The highest bid last month to install fencing was reported to be more than the legal limit for someone without a license. One suspect was also found to have made a \$10,000 bid for some work. The news site reports the bids were for home improvement jobs, including landscaping, carpentry, tree service and painting. Now it'll be up to the Lake County District Attorney's Office to decide what the punishments should be. That could include penalties of up to six months in jail and/or up to \$5,000 in fines for first time offenders.

The Lakeport City Council is hearing about the coronavirus. At their meeting tomorrow the county Public Health officer will present information on the virus to the council as their main order of business. We don't have any local cases yet in Lake County and the Dr. Gary Pace says the risk locally is low. He'll also deliver an update on the coronavirus at a town hall in Kelseyville tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Church. The City Council will also extend the local emergency for the Mendocino Complex fire; another local emergency extension for the October 2019 public safety power shutoff and talk about several events coming up in town the next several months.

A partnership has been announced by Woodland Community College with CSU Sacramento College of Continuing Education for a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development. The Early Development, Care and Education degree will come to their Woodland campus this fall. 22 students signed up at the Lake County campus last fall for students to get their general education and lower- and upper-division classes to complete the program on the Lake County Campus. And now the same will be offered in Woodland at Woodland Community College's Career and Technical Education division.

#### **PM NEWS**

A woman from Redwood Valley has been killed in a car crash. The CHP in Clearlake investigating the Saturday night crash that killed 26 year old Ashley Pulawa. Witnesses first said a pedestrian was hit, but then the CHP reported the woman was a passenger in a Nissan pickup driven by her partner on Highway 29. They say the car was traveling about 45 and 50 miles per hour when the Pulawa departed the truck out of the right front door then the driver stopped on the shoulder and called 911 and tried giving her CPR. But the woman died. The CHP says they're investigating if drugs or alcohol were factors in the incident.

The Baseball fire that broke out near Covelo is nearly contained. The fire in the Mendocino and Six Rivers National Forests is straddling Mendocino and Glenn Counties. It's burned 211 acres and is 90% contained. Crews on the scene mostly mopping up and patrolling for hot spots after a windy weekend. Winds have died down and temperatures were also expected to be lower this week. The fire reportedly started after a pile in a prescribed burn got out of hand last Tuesday. The fire is burning in grass, brush and timber in steep, rugged terrain with a low to moderate rate of spread.

A public health emergency has been called in Sonoma County after health officials confirmed a second local case of coronavirus. The second patient in stable condition in an isolation, but no word what local hospital they are in. Apparently they were on a cruise ship that went from San Francisco to Mexico. The Press Democrat reports state and federal health officials are working with hospital staff to try to find people the patient was in contact with during 10 days since they got back from their cruise. And also a private school in Healdsburg canceled all classes today as a precaution after somebody in the school community came into contact with someone diagnosed with the virus.

PG&E says they're sending out postcards to several thousand customers across the state for updated contact information as they expect a possible early fire season. The giant utility asking their more than 200,000 customers throughout the state to update your phone number, email address and other info for future power shutoffs. You're only getting one of the postcards if you're info isn't complete or they have no contact information on file. This after a dry January and February, February one of the driest in state history. You can also visit PG&E's website or call them to update your contact info

03/03/20 too.

Update in Lake County on the Coronavirus. The Lake County Public Health Department hosted with Dr. Gary Pace. The meeting at the Grace Evangelical Free Church last night in Kelseyville. There was also a live stream of the event where they gave an overview of preparations they're taking and the contacts they've been keeping in touch with. Health professionals from Sutter Lakeside hospital, EMS staff, someone from the Lake County Office of Education and the Sheriff Brian Martin were all in attendance. Of the 100 detected cases in the country, there have been six deaths. 43 people in Calif have tested positive. Pace says those tested are showing strong symptoms and were very sick and were in contact with someone from China or elsewhere that the infection had spread. He says the risk is very low locally.

In Mendocino County, the health dept. reports also keeping a close eye on the possible spread of the virus. The Coronavirus presents like the common cold, but can also cause illness like severe flu. Most people get it in its mild form. The County warning folks to protect themselves like they would from the spread of the flu, stay home from work or school if you feel sick or have flu-like symptoms including a fever and respiratory symptoms, have routine medicine handy, a thermometer to monitor your temperature in case you develop a fever, have extra nonperishable food at home, have support if you have to stay home, wash your hands regularly before and after being in public, don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and if you feel sick, call your doctor.

For general health related questions or other concerns during business hours, please call Mendocino County's Call Center at (707) 234-6052.

Three more homes moved in to by Lake County families thanks to Habitat for Humanity. The three families in Cobb after the Valley Fire without homes. The families thanking Habitat for their housing which is provided for low income families who work with them to own a home.

New action in Calif. to avoid a further spread of the coronavirus. The Gov. Gavin Newsom asking the Legislature to set aside as much as \$20 million out of the state's Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account. The Gov. also activated the State Operations Center to the second-highest level to support state, federal and local emergency managers, public health officials and first responders. The Center will be at the ready for operational and other support to the California Department of Public Health's Medical and Health Coordination Center. The state has also received more test kits. There are nearly a dozen public health labs set up too which have tests from the CDC. State officials say positive tests are being reported but they're taking action quickly for early detection.

PG&E attorneys say they may not be able to get several hundred more tree trimmers hired as the federal judge ordered to avoid more wildfires. The judge in the utility company's criminal case after natural gas lines blew up in San Bruno ordered the company to hire 1,100 more tree trimmers so trees don't fall on power lines and start fires. But lawyers for PG&E have filed papers saying they already have 5,500 tree trimmers and are training about 2,800 more next year. But some of them are set to replace contractors paid a premium because they're from out of state.

For the first time ever, the California Highway Patrol has appointed a female African American deputy commissioner. Amanda Ray has worked for the agency 30 years this month. Deputy Commissioner Ray says she's grateful to serve with amazing women and men dedicated to the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. She'll head daily operations. The Gov. commented on the appointment and the timing of it landing on both Black History Month and Women's History Month in March.

Thousands of fire responders worked the Mendocino Complex Fire, but one in particular will be remembered posthumously with a sculpture. Battalion Chief Matthew Burchett of Utah was killed in the Ranch Fire two years ago. A doctor from Adventist Health reportedly asked artist and sculptor Mark Zjawinski of San Francisco to create a remembrance of Burchett. So a bronze bust was created. Retired Ukiah Fire Chief Kevin Jennings helped with details of the uniform and gear. Finishing touches are being made on the sculpture, then it will be installed in front of the hospital in Ukiah.

Police in Ukiah say three explosives have been found by Pear Tree Shopping Center. Cops say a citizen saw the devices by a trash dumpster behind Rod's Shoes between the Shopping Center and Home Depot. The man who saw the devices walked to the police station yesterday morning after spotting them. Police and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office bomb squad were on the scene to inspect and take away the pipe bomb and two, homemade IEDs (improvised explosive devices). They say they have no idea what the motive was and who left them. Cops say there was no threat to the public the condition the devices were left in.

The election is on and California may make a mark in the Democratic presidential primary for the first time in years due to the earlier primary. It's been in June and was moved up to March, on Super Tuesday, joining Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. But California has the most delegates of them all with 415. Now that Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Tom Steyer and Sen. Amy Klobuchar dropped out of the race, it's mostly between former VP Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders. Polls are open until 8 p.m. And you can register to vote today due to a new state law. If you haven't mailed in your ballot, you can still do that as long as it gets to the county elections office by Friday.



PG&E says they're doing a test run using the Humboldt Bay Generating Station in its "island" mode so major parts of the county can stay powered on during "Public Safety Power Shutoff" events. Kym Kemp reports "islanding" means to use the plant for powering up an area that's disconnected from the grid. PG&E says they got permits to test out the "islanding" idea this summer, which could help with intentional power downs by the utility company in the future.

## **PM NEWS**

Long lines may be in store for those waiting until after 8 to work to vote in California. Officials say you can vote after 8 and to be patient if there are long lines at your polling station this "Super Tuesday". Only a small amount of the more than 20.5 million registered voters in the state had turned in their mail in ballots in early voting. Elections officials were expecting way more ballots to get there today because some voters were waiting to see the results of other state primaries before casting their ballots. Mike Bloomberg and Tom Steyer were advertising all over the place in Calif, Steyer has since dropped out as has Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Senator Amy Klobachar. Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden are still in it to win the 415 pledged Democratic party delegates in Calif.

The City of Willits has an agreement with the Little Lake Fire Protection District so the fire district will get a quarter of the revenue that's brought in from Measure I, the City's voter-approved Cannabis Industry Tax. So far they've pulled in just over \$100,000 before expenses. So it's not yet been calculated what the fire department will get exactly. The City Manager also says the money will be retroactive and based on the total tax since the Measure went into effect. The mayor also chimed in saying, the fire department is very important, and they have an obligation to help fund the needed service.

A series of earthquakes have rattled the Redwood Valley area. Cal Tech reports 5 temblors hit this morning between 10:12 a.m. and 10:27 a.m. At least three were big enough that they could have been felt by residents or others in the area and a fourth one might have only been felt by the most sensitive. The biggest was 3.9 on the scale. Some of them said to have hit by the Coyote Valley Reservation. The smallest one was a 1.9 quake, that one at 10:26. There were no reports of any damage or injuries. They were reported about 3.7 miles deep.

It looks like a runoff election for First District Supervisor candidates Glenn McGourty and Jon Kennedy. Each of the two did not receive more than 50% of the majority, so there has to be a runoff in November, in the General Election. Incumbent Carre Brown is retiring from the seat and four people are running. Besides McGourty and Kennedy, there was James Green and John Sakowicz. McGourty is the UC Farm Advisor for Mendocino County and Kennedy has had various jobs including being a firefighter and running a nonprofit helping Mendocino County fire survivors rebuild their homes.

03/04/20

The 2nd District Supervisor seat will head to a runoff in November. Mo Mulheren and Mari Rodin running for the seat John McCowen is vacating. Mulheren had about 42% of the vote and Rodin had 32.5%. The seat represents the city of Ukiah. Mulheren is a small business owner in Ukiah on the City Council. And Rodin, a former City Council member runs a company who finds grants for local nonprofits and public agencies.

Supervisor Dan Gjerde is holding on to his seat in the 4th District with 58% over Fort Bragg Councilmember Lindy Peters who garnered 42% of the total vote.

It looks like a majority win for a ballot measure to bring in a tax from campgrounds and RV sites. The elections office reported last night the Mendocino County Transient Occupancy Tax, Measure D, had nearly 54% of the vote. It had to have a majority to pass. It aims to bring in \$1 million a year from visitors to camp sites, tent sites, RV sites and private campgrounds in Mendocino County. Measure E which was also on the ballot to fund fire agencies, also passing, with 65% of the vote. It would give 75% of the money brought in to all fire agencies in the County, then the remaining 25 percent on a recommendation by fire chiefs.

School funding may be on hold though if Measure A was the only way, as the initiative looked to be failing in early vote counting. The Mendocino County Elections Office reported last night, the ballot measure did not get enough support. It was looking to raise as much as \$75 million in funding to pay for upgrades to Ukiah schools. The Measure needed 55 percent to pass, and after the polls closed, it was a little short of that at 51.6 percent. It could change though with more ballots trickling in this week. The Ukiah Unified School District had said the money would be used for repairs and updates for items like deteriorating roofs, old plumbing and sewer systems, and inadequate electrical and ventilation systems. They also wanted to update classrooms and labs and replace old portable classrooms with permanent ones instead.

The Ukiah City Council is considering an "urgency ordinance" because of the homeless encampments near the airport. For their meeting tonight, the Assistant City Attorney explains the ordinance would designate an area across from the northern and southern ends of the runway at the Ukiah Municipal Airport designated as Runway Safety Areas. In notes to the Council, he says they would be kept vacant for public safety and to ensure safe operation of the airport. And anyone violating the ordinance could get a misdemeanor citation unless they had "written authorization from the Airport Manager or the City Manager." The Daily Journal reports there have also been businesses denied permits in these same areas for the same safety reasons regarding congregating where a plane could land.

About half of the precincts in Lake County have reported results in Super Tuesday races. The Lake County Registrar of Voters reported before midnight, for District 5 Supervisor Jessica Pyska got 45.60% and Bill Kerney with 36%, the third in line, Kevin Ahahanian with only 1.5%. In District 4, Tina Scott with a majority, winning 60% to Chris Almind's 40%. District 1 was not a problem to retain for Moke Simon, who garnered 63% of the vote against Julia Mary Bono who got 37%. Proposition 13 in Lake County got a No vote, the Yuba Community College District Measure, also a No.

Lake County voters chose Donald Trump overwhelmingly for President again, with 95% of registered Republicans checking him off, then it was Michael Bloomberg, Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. In Mendocino County, it was Sanders with 43%, Biden with 15% and Elizabeth Warren with 13.5%, President Trump getting 92% of Republican votes.

More info on a person sick with the coronavirus in Sonoma County. The patient at a local hospital was on a Princess Cruise line from San Francisco to Mexico in February, now the second ship owned by Princess that's been connected to confirmed cases of the illness. The Sonoma County Health Officer is reportedly trying to find anyone else who came into contact with this person. They were on the cruise from Feb. 11th to the 21st. Then hopped a shuttle from the port to the Sonoma Airport. The county health department is looking for anyone who may have been on that shuttle. This is the second confirmed case of coronavirus being treated at a county hospital, both recent Princess Cruises ship passengers.

A couple of men arrested for making honey oil are going to prison. Grant Anderson and Adam Bushaw, both of Los Angeles, convicted by plea last November. Bushaw telling police he didn't think to get a permit to extract the oil because he first needed money to start his burgeoning business, and because everyone else is involved in the marijuana business in Mendocino County. Then yesterday a judge denied their requests for probation and gave them each five years behind bars. But they'll only serve six months and will then be released for four years of mandatory supervision. The DA tried getting 84 months, 2 years behind bars and the rest under supervision.

Looks like a win for a couple of Lake County Supervisor incumbents. Well after midnight, results in the Super Tuesday race showed first-term incumbents Moke Simon and Tina Scott winning in Districts 1 and 4 respectively. In District 5, Jessica Pyska won the most votes, but fell short of a majority for Rob Brown's seat, he's retiring. So it looks like Pyska will go up against retired pharmacist Bill Kearney of Kelseyville, she with 46% of the vote and he with 21%.

Measure C for the Woodland Community College, it's a no vote to bring in some bond money.

District 4 Assemblymember incumbent Democrat Cecilia Aguiar-Curry got only a slight majority across her district, with 55 percent, Republican Matthew Nelson got about 35 percent, so Aguiar-Curry and Nelson will face off in November.

Democratic Congressmembers John Garamendi and Mike Thompson will have to fight for their seats. Garamendi got 55.7 percent and Republican Tamika Hamilton received 29.6 percent, so the two will face off in the General in November. Thompson who got almost 66% has to face Republican Scott Giblin who won 23 percent in his primary. They face off in November too.

Incumbent 2nd District Congressman Jared Huffman will face Dale Mensing of Redway in November.

Jim Wood, the incumbent in the California Assembly will face challenger Charlotte Svolos from Del Norte.

Bond money to fund public schools looks to be losing, Prop 13, getting 56% for a no vote in California, against 41% of yes votes.

Due to the of the coronavirus, there are reported shortages of respirator face masks for medical professionals, so the California Department of Public Health is stepping in, getting approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to get a hold of some of their emergency reserves. Apparently there are 21 million masks available, some past their use by dates, but they've been kept in climate control so they are still effective. They are only approved for certain limited, low-risk circumstances so doctors, nurses and other hospital and medical personnel can still use them when they're around confirmed COVID-19 patients and other high-risk infectious diseases. As of yesterday, Calif. had

43 positive tests.

The Golden State Killer suspect is still being investigated, and more crimes could be tied to the alleged serial killer and East Area Rapist. Five new DNA samples are being taken from suspect Joseph James DeAngelo connected to a string of rapes in seven counties in Calif. if prosecutors get their way. There's a hearing in the case next week before the preliminary hearing set for May 12th which itself could last up to 10 weeks and see 150 witnesses. The prosecution and defense arguing over the new DNA sample request for swabs from DeAngelo for possibly more criminal counts. His lawyers say the majority of the 26 murder and rape charges against him should be dismissed because state law doesn't allow prosecutors in Sacramento to charge for crimes outside their jurisdiction.

One of the two people who had the coronavirus in Northern Calif has died. The Press Democrat reports it was an elderly person who got the virus on a Princess cruise ship. Now the cruise line is being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention due to a "small cluster" of coronavirus patients. Another passenger is also from Northern Calif and is a patient in Sonoma County. The pair were reportedly exposed to the disease while on the Grand Princess cruise from San Francisco to Mexico Feb. 11th to the 21st. More than fifty people have become ill with coronavirus in Calif. including many who got it from person to person contact.

At the latest Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting they considered the Vision 2028 priorities again which the board adopted in April 2018. Chairman Moke Simon, who by the way is retaining his seat after Super Tuesday, easily winning his seat again spoke up about the Vision... Simon says cleaning up neighborhoods through targeted Code Enforcement is a pillar of their Economic Development strategy. He mentioned they applied for Cannabis grant funds to figure out how to use the tax money they receive to better serve communities. At the meeting yesterday Board members also decided to deny an appeal to not allow a Grocery Outlet store in Middletown. The board finding it to be a major step for economic growth. They also covered public safety as part of the Vision 2028 plan.

Bond measures to get voters in Ukiah to help pay for upgrades to schools still look to be failing. The Daily Journal reports Measure A which needed 55 percent to pass looks to be failing with only about 51 percent approving and 48 giving it a no vote. But the school superintendent says they're still hopeful as there are still votes to be counted. The money would be used for infrastructure repairs and replacing portable classrooms with permanent ones. Their laboratories also need updating. They were looking to raise \$75 million for old roofs, plumbing and sewer, inadequate electrical, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, to upgrade physical education facilities for year-round use by the school and community and bolster outdated security and emergency communications systems, including security fencing.

03/05/20

Serious crime down in Clearlake for the second year in a row. Lake Co News reports the latest report from the police chief brags the lowest property crime numbers in 35 years. Police Chief Andrew White delivered the yearly department report at the Feb. 20th Clearlake City Council meeting. The Chief says their best accomplishment was becoming a public safety answering point which means they get money from the state for a new 911 system. It's connected to Mendocino and Lake counties. They also got technology upgrades including new Tasers, mapping, computers and major radio updates. He reports 390 incidents, up 2 percent, a ten percent drop in arrests though.

The School Measure which had some confused because it's not a housing tax bill, but will give money to schools, Proposition 13, failed. Things could turn around of course in the next month with mail in ballots still trickling in, but the \$15 billion school bond measure is behind with only 44 percent of the vote in Wednesday election returns. A political strategist working with Governor Newsom who's supporting the measure says early votes usually skew conservative and millions of ballots have still not been counted. Plus more liberal or progressive voters tend to back more school funding.

Lots of last minute changes in the Calif. election brought more voters out, but there were reported computer glitches, tons of long lines and short staffing in some polling places. Los Angeles County had a new \$300 million voting system, and many of the devices didn't work. There were also reports that there were not enough check in machines or people working at polling stations, plus some folks had to wait in line up to two hours. Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign has filed a complaint and a county supervisor is demanding an investigation. Also part of Tuesday the state voter database wasn't working so 15 counties weren't able to print out labels, register voters or see if some voters already cast ballots.

Measure G in Willits, the bond initiative to bring money in for repairs has failed. It was pretty close though it didn't get the needed 55 percent of the vote on Super Tuesday. Mendocino County unofficial results from yesterday show two other school measures in Ukiah and Fort Bragg also did not receive the needed votes to pass. But the County passed a bond measure for the School District with 66.35 percent. Willits bond measure only got 52%, just shy of a win. Only a 28% voter turnout too.

The Gov. has declared a state of emergency due to the coronavirus. This will help bring more resources into the state to fight the spread of the disease. The Gov. says its to help identify cases quicker and slow its spread. It came after a patient in Placer County died from the illness yesterday. Public Health officials there say it was an elderly person who was on a Princess cruise ship Feb. 11-21 from San Francisco to Mexico. They also had other medical conditions. Anyone in contact with that patient was quarantined for more evaluation.

A man in Covelo's been arrested for possessing weapons including a loaded pistol. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office got a call to back up the Round Valley Tribal Police Department after a routine patrol finds a man in a car parked in the middle of the road facing the wrong direction. There they found Luis John Oliver, asleep. There was a pistol on the front passenger seat so the man was awakened and detained. When deputies arrived they found a large capacity drum style magazine in the firearm which had a bunch of 9mm live cartridges. They found a lot more ammo and meth in the car, so the guy was booked into jail on multiple state and federal charges including, felon in possession of firearm, possession of large capacity magazine, possession of ammunition by prohibited person and possession of controlled substance while armed with firearm.

The Sheriff along with the County's Interim Health Officer are having a joint press conference this morning on the coronavirus. Sheriff Matt Kendall and Interim Health Officer Noemi Mimi Doohan at the County Administration Center at 9 am to update the community on local preparedness and response. They say there's been a ton of misinformation from well-meaning individuals, but instead to get the facts from them, official channels. They're also live streaming on the County's Facebook page and YouTube Channel [www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo](http://www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo) and will be shared on this Facebook page as well.

It was less than a half hour to convict a man from Boise for some crimes in Mendocino County. The DA's office reports the jury took twenty minutes to convict Hyrum William Anderson for resisting and delaying a peace officer and refusing to provide identification upon lawful demand of a peace officer, the two both misdemeanors. The man has been ordered to come back to Ukiah for sentencing March 26th.

Congressman John Garamendi has introduced the FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act. The senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure says the bill will help increase FEMA support for disaster preparedness and emergency response to California and other states. Congressman Mike Thompson is his cosponsor. They say the bill would increase the federal cost share from 50-75%, instead to 85%, have special flood hazard zones, exempt the time it takes for complete environmental reviews and has the Government Accountability Office report challenges to congress if there are issues with FEMA.

A man in Lake County has pleaded no contest, basically not admitting or denying he killed his father. Alan Ashmore charged with murder and attempted murder for the death of his dad, Douglas Ashmore, and the attempted murder of Richard Braden. Ashmore also pleaded to an attempted first degree murder of a California Highway Patrol Officer for a October, 2017 incident in Clearlake Oaks. He first pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. He also was accused of shooting a woman in the foot, she escaped and when his dad intervened, he killed him. Then he got a gun from his dad's car, and fired at several houses and cars, including shooting at Braden in a vehicle on the street.

The Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder has announced they're still processing ballots from Super Tuesday. Katrina Bartolomie says as part of the official canvass, Mendocino County has 14,732 Vote By Mail ballots to process and 1,575 Conditional Provisional/Provisional ballots to review and process. They will be updating the counts after today, one of their deadlines, then will give an update on Schools and Special District total breakdowns. For the 1st Supervisor District, they have 2,727 to process; the 2nd Supervisor District has 3,014; and the 4th Supervisor District has 3,730 ballots to count. They've got 28 days from Tuesday to finish their canvass, then they'll have the official Statement of Vote, which breaks down results

03/06/20 by precinct.

A cold case stays cold, but the CHP says they're not giving up. The CHP Clear Lake office has updated the public on the murder of Patrick Michael Weber of Santa Clarita, more than a year after he was found dead in his van along Highway 20. Weber found in his van in February of 2019. He was found after reports of a car crash, another driver, seeing Weber's van crashed on the side of the highway. Cops who responded were suspicious of the circumstances of the crash so they started investigating. And an autopsy showed the man died from a gunshot wound. There was also a bunch of marijuana found in the van and he was not legally licensed to transport it. His wife telling police he was a trimmer. A person of interest has been identified, but no word if that person was interviewed.

Lake County's Registrar of Voters reports they're still making their way through the ballots from the Super Tuesday vote, but they don't have a preliminary vote count for the Lake County Superior Court judicial race. The two candidates, incumbent J. David Markham and his challenger Lisa Proffitt-O'Brien, are write-ins. As of yesterday there were nearly 10,000 ballots that have not been counted. That includes vote-by-mail, provisional and conditional ballots. Per state law today is the last day they can accept ballots there were mailed in and counted. Plus new voting equipment was used for the election. Lake Co News reports the interim Registrar Diane Fridley says the new equipment has some more steps which takes more time.

The Ukiah Municipal Airport paving project is starting in May, depending on weather. The Airport Manager Greg Owen reported to the City Council they hope to start May 4th. Cal Fire tankers and other aircraft typically used during fire season won't be able to access the airport for several weeks. The project includes repaving a 75-foot section of the airport runway, plus they're demolishing a taxiway and adding another one. At the time they decided to do the work the City Manager said if they didn't get it done, there would no longer be a usable runway. And if there's a fire they will be able to support helicopters during the work.

You maybe seeing some smoke above Low Gap Park, but it's just a prescribed burn with Cal Fire. The Mendocino Unit of Cal Fire has put out a statement saying there would be a large burn west of the Ukiah Valley, it was for yesterday and today, each day starting at 10 am, and continuing thru 5 p.m. with visible smoke, flames and aircraft hovering. It's all part of their Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project to thin the brush and hopefully reduce the amount of fires and their intensity if they do start. They say there are very tight restrictions for the burns and if there are windy conditions, or other unsafe burn conditions, they will cancel.

A major employer in Sonoma County says they're closing indefinitely due to the coronavirus. It's the first major employer with the announcement after a second person in the County was diagnosed with the virus. This person became sick a day after an elderly man in Placer County died after becoming seriously ill with the coronavirus. The Gov. Gavin Newsom also declared a state of emergency after the death. There's a local public health emergency in Sonoma County and an investigation of a Sonoma County Airport Express shuttle bus, both of the residents who got sick with the virus were on. They were in a group of people from the Grand Princess cruise from San Francisco to Mexico who hopped on the shuttle after disembarking. An employee at Keysight was under self-quarantine after developing flu-like symptoms and being tested for the virus. A company spokesperson says other employees will work from home until they find out if the single employee indeed has the illness.

The state Dept. of Managed Health Care and all commercial and Medi-Cal health plans the state regulates are being ordered to provide all medically necessary screening and testing for coronavirus for free. It also includes a waiver for cost-sharing for emergency room, urgent care or provider office visits if it's about the virus. The Gov. says residents shouldn't have to be afraid they'll get stuck with a big medical bill because they're being tested for the virus. So those who show symptoms and fit the testing requirements will get the test at no cost. Also the California Department of Insurance issued a similar directive for free medically necessary testing for 2 million more Californians. As of yesterday there were 60 positive cases, 1 death. 9,400 Californians are self monitoring after returning from travel through San Francisco Airport or LAX.

The City of Clearlake says it'll sue Lake County if the County doesn't hop on board and have more than 1,000 tax-defaulted properties up for auction by November. The Record Bee reports the city sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors and to the Treasurer- Tax Collector Barbara Ringen by the Clearlake City Attorney Ryan Jones regarding the 1,121 properties in Clearlake, some of them defaulted for nearly a decade. The letter says it's statutorily required for a tax auction at least once this year, before Halloween. The attorney says if the County doesn't meet the City's demand, they will take legal action to compel the Tax Collector to do her duty. Last week the Tax Collector's office and the board said there would be 217 properties in Lake County, only 118 of which are in Clearlake, up for tax auction beginning in late May.

A call for entries by the Middletown Art Center for its yearly EcoArts Sculpture Walk. The walk at the Middletown Trailside Park for the 15th year. But only the second exhibit since the park reopened after the Valley Fire. It's for artists who are interested in the recovery of ecosystems using their work and or having something to do with restoration. Artists should use the materials of the park and be in the spirit of the environment of south Lake County. You've got to submit by March 30th and be ready to install your work by May 12th to the 29th.

Applications can be downloaded at [middletownartcenter.org/artists](http://middletownartcenter.org/artists). For questions email [middletownartcenter@gmail.com](mailto:middletownartcenter@gmail.com).

It's a resounding yes for Adventist Health to start managing Mendocino Coast District Hospital. In election returns voters gave Measure C 90% yes. The initiative asked voters if the hospital should allow Adventist, or its subsidiary, Stone Point Health to take over operations for up to 30 years. A majority vote of more than 50 percent was needed for the measure to pass. The hospital's interim CEO thanked voters Wednesday, in an email to the community, he thanked all who made access to healthcare services a high priority. He says now Adventist Health will permit the deployment of proven preventative health programs within our community and create an attractive arrangement for more physicians to practice locally. The hospital board also voted unanimously to close the hospital's obstetrics department last week and agreed on a "stabilize and transfer" protocol for expectant mothers starting at the end of March.

A resident in Del Norte County is showing symptoms of coronavirus. The Del Norte County Public Health and Del Norte County Office of Emergency Services are teaming up for the resident to get tested, following the guidelines set out by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The patient took themselves to a local healthcare facility then contact testing was initiated. That to see who this patient had been in contact with the previous two weeks. Exposed contacts are being quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms. They warn this is only a presumed case until it's confirmed with the lab test. This person is being treated in a controlled environment, the risk to the public is low. Symptoms can be mild to severe with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Older residents and individuals with underlying medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.



A bunch of people on a cruise ship off the coast of California are being told to hunker down in their cabins until test results come back to see if the coronavirus is also aboard with more than 3,500 people. There was a military helicopter lowering tests to the Grand Princess by rope, then plucked them back up later for analysis. Princess Cruises reported 45 people were tested after a passenger on the same ship but a different cruise died of the coronavirus and at least four others got sick. The virus also had another Princess cruise ship under quarantine for two weeks. The Diamond Princess, in Yokohama, Japan, last month. On that cruise, 700 of 3,700 people aboard were infected with the virus. 14 people have died from the virus in the U.S. all but the one here in Calif were in Washington state.

A man whose DNA showed up as being the Golden State Killer and East Side Rapist is going to plead guilty so he doesn't have a death penalty trial. Court papers and a letter from Joseph James DeAngelo's lawyers to the victim's families says they want to avoid a long and costly trial. He's accused of more than a dozen murders over more than ten years in six counties in Calif. And for 13 more counts of kidnapping and robbery. There were more he was accused of too in the 1970s and 80s but the statute of limitations has expired so he can't be tried for those. The letter sent by the public defenders office said they want to reach a resolution that satisfies all parties.

A young man in Willits has been arrested on several charges related to an altercation with his girlfriend. Deputies say they got a call from the female victim that her live in boyfriend Chandler Bowers physically assaulted her at their home last Monday morning. She says he got very angry and head butted her, then threw a wireless speaker at her. Her toddler was near by at the time. The woman says Bowers kept attacking her, grabbing her hair, taking her to the ground and hitting her in the torso. They say she had visible injuries, so Bowers was arrested nearby. He was booked on felony domestic battery, child endangerment and false imprisonment and held on

03/09/20 \$25,000.00 bail.

More tests being made available for the coronavirus in Mendocino County. The County Public Health Dept. reported Friday that LabCorp and Quest are able to test for the virus. The Public Health office is also working with local healthcare providers to help identify those at high risk of getting the illness. The agency says whether a resident is tested privately or thru the County's Public Health system, it's mandatory reporting for positive test results. There are two residents who were tested in Mendocino County Friday, one was in the hospital and quickly tested with a negative result, the other is still awaiting their results. There have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus in the County.

A town hall's been held by Lakeport police on their "community policing" policies. They spoke about what lawmakers are working in with regards to public safety, neighborhood watch, the police canine program, crime statistics, officer training, a security camera registration program, an ongoing community survey, de-escalation and crisis intervention training, and police recruitment. The Record Bee reports the Lakeport Police Chief Brad Rasmussen says their trying to provide the info to the public and they're looking to the public to help inform other community members. The chief says staff recruitment is a major challenge, as is recruitment and retention across the country. They want the public to fill out surveys to let them know how they're doing. You can pick them up on the department's website, at city hall or at the police department

Coronavirus taking hold across the country with closures of schools, businesses and canceled events. The Lake County Board of Supervisors is getting an update tomorrow morning from the county Public Health officer and discuss possible work changes related to the illness. They'll also decide if they should continue Friday office closures. Dr. Gary Pace will be at tomorrow's meeting with an update on coronavirus after he spoke last week at both city councils in Clearlake and Lakeport. He said then that there were no confirmed cases of the illness. The board's also considering a new ordinance for industrial hemp regulations.

No new cases of coronavirus in Sonoma County after contact with nearly 80 residents aboard a cruise ship that came back to the Bay Area from Mexico last month with at least two people aboard who had the virus. But there are still test results to come back of some residents who came into contact with the sick individuals aboard the Princess Cruises ship. Gov. Newsom made an announcement yesterday that another cruise ship was disembarking thousands who were potentially exposed to the virus at the Port of Oakland. The ship had been parked offshore as folks aboard were tested for the virus. Half of those tested were infected. More than 2,400 American passengers on the ship are being quarantined for 14 days at one of three U.S. military bases including more than 960 from Calif. who'll be taken to Travis Air Force Base in Solano County.

The California Department of Public Health released new numbers on the virus. As of yesterday morning there were 114 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across the state. One person died last week from the illness. More than 10,000 people are self-monitoring after travel through the U.S. through SFO or LAX. The Department of Public Health says of the 114 positive cases, 21 were passengers who tested positive for the illness on the Grand Princess cruise ship. They're urging Californians who feel they have symptoms or who may have been in contact with someone with the virus to call their doctor and not to go to a clinic or ER.

A strong, but not very long lasting earthquake hit the Mendocino Coast. Last night the 5.9 was recorded about 70 miles off the coast of Eureka, about a mile deep. It happened a minute before 8pm last night. No injuries have been reported or any damage reports as of yet either. The National Tsunami Warning Center also released a statement saying there was no tsunami expected.

The biggest school district in Northern California and the fifth-largest in the state says they'll close this week due to the coronavirus. Elk Grove Unified School District in southern Sacramento County closing after an infected family is quarantined. So the school officials made the announcement Saturday, they'd cancel all classes and student events from the 7th to the 13th of March. They will make an announcement on Thursday if they plan to stay closed. The district also says it'll move their spring break up to make it this week so it doesn't impact student learning and there's no loss of school days. There are more than 60,000 students in the district's 42 elementary schools, nine middle schools and nine high schools.

Mendocino County's Public Health Officer is talking about the coronavirus... Dr. Noemi Doohan speaking about what a pandemic is, saying, it's when "a new (novel) version of a communicable disease becomes rapidly widespread around the world. An example of a pandemic is the influenza outbreak of 1918." She says the coronavirus usually causes the common cold, but the novel coronavirus or COVID-19 causes an illness that feels like a serious flu. Protections to contain or slow the illness include, finding a vaccine, creating treatments, and surge health care capacity. She says simple actions to slow and contain it and the flu are handwashing with soap and water, stay home if you're sick, avoid crowds, wear a mask if you're coughing, clean shared touch points, like keyboards, doorknobs, etc.

A body found in deep brush north of Westport. The body has not been identified. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports the scattered remains were found over the weekend. The Sheriff's office along with CSU, Chico Department of Anthropology Lab at the scene near mile marker 86 on Highway 1. The sheriff's office says they will work fast to try to identify the remains.

### **PM NEWS**

A man in Covelo has been arrested after a woman shows up in the ER with a gunshot wound. The woman told police she was laying down in her room listening to music and heard gunfire, she then realized she'd been hit on one of her fingers. Then Ira Reyes ran into her home, apologizing for hitting her with a bullet. The man reportedly thought he was shooting at someone else in the house. A search warrant served at Reyes home and a bullet hole was found. Round Valley Tribal Police ended up in a chase with the guy, who they say got out of his car and ran. He dropped a backpack that officers found a semi-automatic pistol inside. Reyes was found later and arrested for several crimes including, assault with a firearm, felon in possession of a firearm and shooting at an inhabited dwelling or vehicle. He's held on \$500,000.00 bail.

The city of Oakland and Alameda County taking extra steps to protect the public after the Grand Princess Cruise ship docked in the Port of Oakland. Some of the tested passengers had positive results for the novel coronavirus. Those on the ship will be quarantined and no City of Oakland employees or personnel were anywhere near them. Doctors, nurses and public health officials, emergency responders and community leaders including the city's Mayor, and the Gov. spoke over the weekend about how important it is to keep surrounding communities protected. An 11 acre area was fenced off, there were temporary tents set up for cruise ship passengers to disembark into, meeting with medically trained federal personnel who wore personal protective gear for those interacting with passengers. And port workers handling the off-loading of passenger baggage. Those needing emergency care were being tended to if they had tested positive, or for other health issues too.

A series of aftershocks have rocked the Northern Calif. coast after a 5.8 earthquake over the weekend. The biggest of the aftershocks hit last night before midnight, measuring 4.9. Then several smaller quakes shook thru the morning hours today, the most recent, a 3.3. So far we've not seen any damage or injury reports. The Mendocino fault is pretty active according to geologists at Humboldt State University. The larger earthquake was downgraded from a 5.9-magnitude last night

The Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie has announced they've still got more than 15,000 ballots to process in the official canvass after Super Tuesday. There are 14,993 Vote By Mail ballots to process and 1,575 Conditional Provisional/Provisional ballots to review and process. They do have 30 days to complete the process before announcing the official Statement of Vote, which breaks down results by precinct.

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There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County, but the County has announced they're getting ready in case there's a pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are encouraging counties and cities to prepare. But Mendocino County has NO evidence of community spread so far. The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan has not ordered any events be canceled, but the County's encouraging event organizers have a plan to modify, cancel, or postpone due to the outbreak of coronavirus, promote messages discouraging sick people from attending events, encourage social distancing and possible live stream participation and have prevention supplies at events, like soap, hand sanitizers, and tissues.

The Governor and mayors in the state had a meetup to discuss a plan to fight homelessness. The crisis hit Calif hard last year, with a 16% spike. The housing crisis is not helping, neither is the state's cost of living. The governor has a plan to set aside \$750 million for 10 regions which have not been named yet. The proposal was reportedly updated Friday so that local governments or groups of governments can be their own regional administrators. But the mayors of 13 of the largest cities were varied in their degrees of agreement. Nine of them supporting a proposal to come up with \$500 million a year for homelessness programs by raising taxes on some homeowners.

Another death in the state from coronavirus. This time in Santa Clara County. In Lake County, the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace has not said how many tests they've conducted, but that there are no cases and the chance of a spread here is low. Some tests have been done, but they're all negative. Pace says several county health departments in the Bay Area are not releasing details publicly on testing. There were almost 40 cases in Santa Clara County out of the 130 cases in the state.

A man in Lakeport accused of illegally carrying a gun onto school grounds and having drugs on him has pleaded not guilty. Michael Richard King is charged with illegal possession of a weapon (a felony), possession of weapon on school grounds, possession of methamphetamine and possession of more than one ounce of marijuana. His lawyer asked for the case to be continued as there may be a resolution. They're headed back to court March 24th after the January incident where King was arrested for carrying a knife on a middle school campus. The school resource officer saw him and his knife and arrested him there. He was held on \$15,000 bail, but is no longer in jail.

Some official information's been sent to public schools in Calif. since the outbreak of coronavirus. The California public health dept sent the guidance with a statement from the Gov. which said it's a matter of time until some schools will have to be closed because of the virus. It goes on to say that school districts need to prepare for various scenarios so parents and students can plan for what would happen if their local school faced closure. This came just after the Elk Grove Unified School District, the 5th largest in the state, closed, after a family had to be quarantined after at least one of the family members tested positive for the virus. The guidance sent over the weekend as Stanford University announced all classes would be online. As did USC this week, and may continue beyond that. UC Berkeley also closed, suspending in person classes until the end of the month. UC Davis is allowing students and teachers to make their own decision.

A new report shows California is number four on the list for the highest rate of homelessness in the U.S. PsyDprograms.org, a psychology degree website studied the crisis on the State of Homelessness in America. They used data through 2019 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development showing the rankings across the country. Calif. had nearly 383 homeless out of 100,000 people and had the 47th highest percentage of women in a homeless population and 50 highest percentage of children in a homeless population. The 10 highest homelessness rates: D.C., New York, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Massachusetts, Alaska, Nevada and Vermont. The lowest was Mississippi.

The 4th annual senior summit is canceled. The event has been planned by the Lake County Silver Foundation to honor seniors for inspirational lives, achievements and their continuing legacy. But the foundation says since the event is set for April 4th, they're concerned about the large group gathering especially as seniors have been named the most vulnerable for coronavirus, so they're postponing. The group says they'll keep the public informed, plus they're coming up with health and resource newsletter with information for Lake County seniors. Anyone who signed up will be notified by phone when the new event is happening.

But in Ukiah, the Redwood Region Logging Conference is still happening. For their 2020 Achievement Award, they've named Willits resident and businessman Phil Shuster. The event, its 82nd, is happening March 20th at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds. Shuster's been working in the timber industry for five decades. He has a degree in forestry and has been working in the field ever since and has been active in various Timber Industry organizations.

The California Department of Public Health asking residents at higher risk for serious illness from coronavirus to try to reduce their risk. Those groups include the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, others with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease. A reminder to wash your hands longer than 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with those who are sick, stay away from large gatherings and crowds and stay home as often as possible.

The Clearlake City Council moving forward to accept a state grant so the city can be prepared for future public safety power shutoffs. This after PG&E had several intentional power downs last fall in severe fire weather with seasonal high winds and dry conditions. A grant application was sent to the California Office of Emergency Services. The city applied for and received a \$268,500 Public Safety Power Shutoff Resiliency Allocation to Cities grant. The city received the full amount of what it applied for. The city council discussed the grant at their meeting last week. Lake Co News reports the grants are for cities that are incorporated. So they get prepared and can respond to the power shutoffs by buying backup generators, create continuity plans and post-event reports, conduct risk assessments for infrastructure and public education materials.

A medical emergency reported in Fort Bragg has the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reporting to the scene. An off duty Deputy Sheriff had reportedly overdosed so a sergeant who responded, administering Narcan and calling their boss, the Sheriff. Apparently drug paraphernalia and drugs were found at the house. The Sheriff has asked the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office to investigate and their Narcotics team was assigned to the investigation too. A search warrant was served by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Dept. No more info has been released, except that the off-duty deputy involved has been put on paid administrative leave, which is standard policy.

An update released by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services on the Princess Cruise Ship that was docked in the Port of Oakland to offload several hundred passengers who may have been exposed to the coronavirus. More than 400 people were disembarked including 173 US residents yesterday. 149 were taken to Travis Air Force Base, including 24 who were transported on an ambulance. 234 were Canadians, all but 2 went home. More passengers disembarked today.

The public health officer in Lake County has declared a local public health emergency. Monday, Dr. Gary Pace declared the emergency, even though there are no cases of coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. It's so the County can be proactive and expedite their planning and response to any potential cases and to get additional resources available for the County to limit and slow community spread of the disease. The risk is still low according to Pace, but the agency is asking all community members to plan ahead for possible local cases and the possibility of community spread. The County reports working closely with federal, state, and local partners to provide the public with accurate information about actions to be taken to reduce the spread and if you need to, care for those who may become ill with this virus.

#### **People Can Protect Themselves By:**

The best way to prevent the spread of illness, including; seasonal flu, novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and other respiratory illness is to practice everyday illness prevention steps:

Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing

If soap and water are not readily available, use alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, making sure to rub your hands together until the sanitizer is dry

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash

Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

Staying home if you are sick, especially from work, school and public places.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**Personal Preparation Measures Include:**

Gradually stock up extra supplies of important items, such as: soap, hand sanitizer, tissues, over the counter medications and prescription medications.

Gradually stock up on non-perishable foods.

Create a back-up plan for work, school and childcare in the event of closures.

Talk to your workplace about getting ready. Plan for telework, if possible.

Create a space in your home to care for sick family members.

Replace handshakes with elbow-bumps – make a game of this with your kids.

**What to Do if You Think You're Sick:**

Previously, all testing was being performed at the CDC laboratory in Atlanta.

Diagnostic testing for Coronavirus is becoming more available with state testing at nineteen (19) California Public Health Laboratories including in Sonoma County. Commercial labs like Quest are now offering these tests. Unfortunately, the capacity continues to be limited, so during this transition period, only the highest risk patients are recommended to receive testing. Speak with your medical provider if you have symptoms.

**Call Ahead if You Have Symptoms:**

If you develop a fever, cough and shortness of breath, and believe you could have COVID-19, notify your healthcare provider by phone. Call ahead so that you can be safely evaluated and prevent exposing others.

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about novel coronavirus COVID-19 by visiting the following websites:

CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>

CDPH Website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV20>

and/or contact Lake County Public Health (707) 263-1090

<http://health.co.lake.ca.us/>

FEMA has agreed to allow wildfire victims be compensated by PG&E before the agency. A tentative deal has been announced by the Bankruptcy Court and part of the deal is that FEMA will not go after repayment from wildfire claims after there had been a threat that the federal government may demand getting its federal disaster aid paid back by survivors. FEMA has also agreed to reduce its claim by \$3 billion, from \$4 to \$1 billion. The lawyer who represents wildfire victims says until the victims are paid, FEMA will receive no money. A FEMA spokesperson has confirmed the details of the deal and says it's satisfied with the tentative agreement and says, "the needs of disaster survivors are placed first" and that the federal agency "holds PG&E accountable for expenditures of federal disaster assistance"

03/11/20 for fires caused by the utility's electrical equipment.

Sonoma County says they have no evidence of communal spread of coronavirus. Local health officials says they've got an aggressive plan to fight the illness from spreading which includes local testing, targeted tracking at hospital emergency rooms and recommends anyone organizing a public event consider canceling. The county's interim health officer, Dr. Sundari Mase spoke to the Board of Supervisors saying it's hard to track the virus, because it's so new and some who get sick never show any symptoms. 29 people were tested since the weekend and all tests were negative.

The latest numbers show a pretty low voter turnout in Mendocino County. The Registrar of Voters Office reports of the nearly 25,000 voters, only about a third of them, or 31% got out the vote in the 2020 Presidential Primary. There are still no official results because the office has a month from the election to post the State of Vote.

Some school districts in Calif. say they're not getting enough money in their budgets, only a 2.3% cost of living adjustment. Apparently they've been expecting 3%. Some say that divide of less than three quarters of a percent is a big deal as some don't have enough to cover basic operating expenses with higher pension expenses, special education costs and the fact that the minimum wage went up. Some districts are also dealing with lower enrollment. Now the coronavirus is tapping reserves for larger districts that may have to close, like Elk Grove, which boasts enrollment of 60,000 students.

Several dozen budget changes are being discussed in Willits. At the City Council meeting tonight, 61 changes will be considered for the 2019-2020 budget. The Willits News reports they'll work on high priority goals and approve upcoming road projects. The agenda notes the budget amendments as decreasing the budget balance because of insurance costs, decreasing the Enterprise Fund because of Capital Improvement Projects and a decrease to the Special Fund because of personnel costs in the Police Department. All of this and the agenda can be found online at the City's website.

A community forum is planned in Ukiah. The public's invited to the discussion of the Downtown Streetscape Project tomorrow. Construction's set to start next month. If you attend you can meet the City of Ukiah Project Team, see the final designs, and ask questions. It's at 6 pm tomorrow at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center, 200 S. School Street.

More than 40 million dollars is being distributed among local groups and businesses to help reduce the risk of wildfires. CAL FIRE awarded the money so 55 local fire prevention projects can be completed for hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire preparedness planning and fire prevention education. Lake Co News reports the Clear Lake Environmental Research Center, got more than \$3 million for the first phase of the Lake County Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project. The Cal Fire director says they're doubling their efforts to "clear brush, inspect homes for defensible space and reduce the risk of wildfires. He says the "local projects will play a critical role in augmenting our fire prevention efforts." Some of that includes removing dead and dying trees that will protect communities from possible wildfires in the future. The agency's put up more than \$150 million dollars the last 6 years for hundreds of projects to address the risk of wildfire.



There are now nearly 160 cases of coronavirus in Calif. The Department of Public Health released new numbers yesterday and announced the creation of an online hub so you can access information about how to protect against the illness. 157 recorded cases of the virus, including 2 deaths, but as Lake Co News reports, that doesn't include passengers from the docked Grand Princess cruise ship in Oakland. The website also includes guidance for all sorts of health care facilities, schools, event organizers, first responders, employers, healthcare workers, how to clean your home for coronavirus positive patients, using cleaners at schools, labs and healthcare facilities from Cal Osha.

One person is dead and another has been hurt after a solo car crash near Clearlake Oaks. Lake Co News reports the crash happened last night just after 8:15 p.m. by mile marker 37 on Highway 20 near Walker Ridge Road. The California Highway Patrol on the scene of a white SUV that had veered off the highway and traveling down an embankment. The CHP says the car went about 100 to 200 feet down the embankment. The driver was unresponsive when they arrived so an air ambulance was requested. But the driver died soon after. A passenger had minor injuries and was taken to a hospital, but later they were taken to an out-of-county trauma center.

A middle school student in Lakeport has been arrested for threatening statements. Police say a school resource officer was alerted by school staff about a former Terrace Middle School student who was not on campus and is on probation for making the threats. Police notified the probation department. The school resource officer and probation officers then went to the student's home and found an unloaded Smith & Wesson .40-caliber handgun, no ammo was found though. The kid was arrested and taken to Juvenile Hall.

A local emergency in Mendocino County's been ratified by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors due to COVID- 19 (coronavirus). The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan declared the public health emergency last week for the County to better coordinate emergency planning and coordination between state and federal agencies. The county can also get money back from state and federal governments for any expenditures it incurs related to the virus. Just like Lake County announced, they're working with officials to monitor and respond to the virus with the California Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Neither county has any confirmed cases.

A meeting's set between the Ukiah City Council and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District. The meeting tonight to present a rate study after analyzing wastewater revenue requirements for the City and the District, analyze fiscal resources, to maintain wastewater services, including operations, debt service, and capital improvements. The Daily Journal reports the two are also going to consider Prop 218, regarding new rates. A 2006 bond may be refinanced to pay for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and reduce the debt for both parties.

A five year contract has been agreed to for an online tax auction bidding service for Lake County. The Board of Supervisors agreed to the agreement to help sell tax defaulted parcels. District 2 Supervisor Bruno Sabatier wants more than the 300 properties noted in the contract that would be up for auction each year of the agreement. The \$262,500 contract maximum with Bid4Assets, Inc. out of Maryland would give that company \$175 fee per property with a maximum of 300 auctioned properties a year. And District 5 Supervisor Rob Brown says he just wants the taxes paid, hoping to avoid tax sales altogether. The board did end up voting unanimously, with one supervisor absent to enter into the agreement.

Two people aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship docked at the Port of Oakland are suing Princess cruises after they were quarantined on board and forced to stay in their rooms for fear the coronavirus would spread. One of the passengers got off on February 21st after showing symptoms, and later died. The ship and crew and several dozen passengers were aboard after, headed to Hawaii. Now Eva and Ronald Weissberger of Broward County, Florida say they were exposed “to actual risk of immediate physical injury.” They say the cruise line only had passengers fill out a sheet of paper saying they weren’t sick and nobody was questioned further. They say the cruise line informed passengers 4 days after they took off about the risk and say, had they known, they would have stayed in Hawaii where the ship docked. They go on to say the company chose profits over safety of passengers, crew and the general public by operating as business as usual. They are seeking \$1 million in damages.

Health officials in Sonoma County getting aggressive against the coronavirus. Certain hospitals, clinics and urgent care centers will start testing in the county. They’re starting a so-called “enhanced surveillance” program to test as many as 80 patients who present with flu-like symptoms at a time. The program is to see if Covid-19 is being transmitted from person to person in the County. The County’s interim health officer Dr. Sundari Mase says they want to determine if there are any coronavirus infections in the community they haven’t detected, going from a passive stance to a more proactive response. Mase says there’s been no new cases of

03/12/20 coronavirus since Saturday.

An urgency ordinance adopted in Ukiah due to the homeless encampments near the Ukiah Municipal Airport. The Daily Journal reports the City Council adopted the ordinance so the open space near the airport is noted as Runway Safety Areas to be kept clear. The Asst. City Attorney says the issue’s more urgent now as groups of people have been loitering in the area which is unsafe. There are two areas across from the northern and southern ends of the runway owned by the city that will now be kept vacant. They could affect if there is a flight that either overshoots or undershoots the runway or needs to make an emergency landing. So those caught in these areas will be ticketed for trespassing.

A proposed subdivision in Ukiah referred to the Planning Commission by the City Council will probably be appealed. The Daily Journal reports after the subdivision on North School Street went before City Engineer Tim Eriksen in January many neighbors nearby appealed saying there would be terrible traffic and that they were opposed to the three plot subdivision, but two parcels might be fine. Then when it came time to have public comment, nobody spoke out against it as Eriksen approved it. He even told a few audience members there, they could speak out if they wanted to. A City Council member appealed the subdivision for his district due to property value decreases and possible flooding. The City Council member also reportedly lives across from the plot of land. That Planning Commission is expected to get the appeal March 25th.

The Redwood Valley Water Infrastructure Retrofit Project is moving forward after the Board of Supervisors gave the project a thumbs up. The Board giving the approval for the Department of Transportation to advertise for bids and find the lowest bidder for the construction and improvements. The Daily Journal reports the planned Retrofit Project would help stop earthquake hazards that threaten the Redwood Valley County Water District and protect infrastructure should there be an earthquake in the future. The project to replace more than 10,000 feet of main water lines, including the installation of as much as 3,300 feet of new water main lines, and replace 146 water services lateral connections.

The name of a woman killed in a car crash on Highway 20 has been released. The Lake County Sheriff's Office reports 58 year old Mary Mahoney of Guerneville died after her Toyota 4Runner went down an embankment by Walker Ridge Road Tuesday night. She apparently tried to swerve back onto the road after driving onto the dirt shoulder but rolled the SUV. It's also reported, she did not have her seatbelt on. She was thrown from the vehicle and died at the scene. She had a 20 year old female passenger with her who had minor injuries and was flown to an out of county hospital.

All in-person classes at Sonoma State University have been temporarily suspended due to the coronavirus. There were only three days of classes that would be online as it's spring break next week. The college says they'll resume regular classes March 24th depending on the status of the health crisis then. They school says the move to online classes is so faculty and staff have enough time to figure out the whole remote or virtual class model in case the virus outbreak gets more serious in the last several weeks of spring semester which ends May 8th.

A two week quarantine has been put in place at a Northern California assisted living facility after an elderly patient there died from the virus. Carlton Senior Living has confirmed a resident at their facility in Elk Grove died Tuesday at a hospital. Now the 140 residents there are being isolated in their apartments. In Washington State there were 19 deaths at a similar facility, so the Gov. banned all visitors at nursing homes. The Sacramento County health dept says they're investigating if any other exposure happened at the Elk Grove facility and says no visitors will be allowed at that home until there are no contagious residents.

New policies have been announced by the governor regarding large public gatherings. The State says all gatherings should be postponed or canceled across Calif until at least the end of March. And any gatherings that do go on should not be with more than 250 people, and that those events that do proceed should only if the organizers can attain social distancing of 6 feet per person. And further, that gatherings of those at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines. The Gov. says it's only for a short time saying it could save dozens of lives and preserve critical health care resources. Gatherings noted as events or bringing together people in a single room or single space at the same time, like at an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.

Local hemp industry regulations have been discussed at the Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting. The board will have to read the regulations again at two future meetings for final adoption. There will now be a new permitting process for hemp growers, stricter restrictions on the local industry, setbacks for grow sites will be established in a new zoning ordinance will also be part of the new regulations. Anyone interested in growing will have to have background checks, prove they have land ownership or a lease agreement for cultivation, identification of a legal source of water for cultivation, a zoning permit, registration with an applicable water board, a pollen management and crop destruction plan, and a surety bond.

A former High School music teacher has pleaded not guilty to sex crimes with children. Former Kelseyville High teacher Cory Cunningham has been charged with sexual penetration by object on a minor, willful child endangerment, contacting a minor to commit a felony (lewd act) and annoying or molesting a child under 18. He's charged for a December 2019 incident with a 17-year-old student. He was first placed on administrative leave, then arrested. The school district has a lawyer representing it in the case, but the superintendent says they're not sharing information that could hurt the case. Cunningham taught band, jazz ensemble, choir, guitar and music appreciation. He is due back in court April 27th for a preliminary hearing.

Congressman Mike Thompson's Phone Act with Congressmember Anna Eshoo of Palo Alto has been referred by the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to the full committee before a possible vote on the House floor. If it passes, residents who lost their homes in natural disasters would be able to keep their phone numbers for free. Survivors currently in danger of losing their phone numbers, and current law prohibits phone companies from allowing folks to keep their phone numbers as they rebuild their homes.

Five University of California medical centers are taking on the coronavirus, offering tests in house. UC Davis Medical Center released the news yesterday they're starting their own in-house testing for coronavirus, making it the first health system in the country to do so. UC Davis hospital officials say they've been able to treat three of the first patients in the country to end up sick and will use their newly attained knowledge to help with the testing shortage. None of their healthcare workers got sick either. This because of a lack of federal government test kits. The tests at labs also at UC San Francisco, UCLA and UC San Diego which can all be turned around within 24 hours. UC Davis and Irvine are the next who are expected to offer in-house coronavirus tests.

An executive order has been issued by the Governor waiving the one week waiting period for unemployment. Governor Newsom also set other guidelines including delaying the deadline for state tax filing by 60 days for individuals and businesses who cannot file on time due to public health requirements related to COVID-19 filings, the order directs residents to follow public health directives and guidance, including the cancellation of large non-essential gatherings that do not meet state criteria; allows the state to commandeer property for temporary residences and medical facilities for quarantining, isolating or treating people; allows local or state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and make the meetings accessible electronically; and allows local and state emergency administrators to act quickly to protect public health.

Local officials held a community information meeting about coronavirus. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Mimi Doohan. Dr. Doohan spoke on the virus and her expertise and says she's closely following the pandemic. She says they're being very transparent about the disease in the

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The County is reminding the public not to shake hands, stay home when you're sick and to keep about six feet away from others. She says it's usually a pretty mild illness, like getting the flu. For more information a call center has been set up that'll be open until 5 pm today, after hours, the phone number will be rolled over to the dispatch center: 707-234-6052 rolls you can also email [callcenter@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:callcenter@mendocinocounty.org)

Fort Bragg is getting proactive against coronavirus. At an unofficial State of the City address, the Mayor William Lee and other city officials at city hall yesterday spoke on the issue, reminding folks to stay calm. There are five people in the hospital in Fort Bragg with respiratory illness, 2 diagnosed with the flu, but the mayor didn't say if any of the patients were tested for the virus. He confirmed the city has enough testing kits for the population and that they can get more if needed. The city manager also on hand saying the city's getting ready to open an Emergency Operations Center like they had during the PG&E power shutoffs last year. She says though that there's no intention of opening the Center unless there's a confirmed case in Mendocino County.

The latest Grand Jury report has been released in Mendocino County. The 2020 Continuity Report has not been done for ten years. It looks at prior grand jury investigations on county and city government and special districts. The reports generally recommend changes and provide a critique of department operations. Last year they looked at the Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County CEO, County Office of Education, and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District.

Repair work is complete at the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to dry weather last month, the ponds still in terrible condition after winter rains the last few years. The Public Works Director Tim Eriksen says levees around the percolation ponds at the Wastewater Treatment Plant were damaged last year. A contractor has been hired after things were on hold due to the City's recycled water project.

The monthly meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District and the discussion of ambulance service came up for Ukiah. The MedStar Ambulance CEO was on hand looking for support from the fire chief to stay in business in Ukiah. Which he got. Then they discussed a firehouse update and where they're at with the buildout. There have been plan reviews and expenditure reports to pour over and discussions on design. They also discussed new fire rigs, already purchased and adopting a new fire code. The staff noted at the meeting that they've only just begun work on the preliminary budget.

A town hall with the Mendocino County Public Health Officer Mimi Doohan, zero cases in Lake and Mendocino County, Sonoma County had 2 cases and Marin had 3.

The latest numbers show there have been 177 cases in the state and 4 deaths, the epicenter is said to be the Bay Area. The County is following the state on mass public gatherings, that they should be canceled or postponed. And the ones that do go on need to be much smaller, with enough room for social distancing.

Sonoma County is taking decisive action, suspending activities, closing schools and in person services thru the weekend. Sonoma State announced a temporary closure, Santa Rosa Junior College, and the most populous schools are suspending in person classes, starting spring break early. Sonoma County school administrators are reportedly planning for a possible extended closure during the break due to the expanding global pandemic. The Press Democrat reports the Sonoma County Office of Education has advised local administrators to also reschedule or cancel extracurricular activities, including dances, field trips and theater productions.

Events canceled in Lake County... the Soper Reese Theatre and Lake County Winegrape Commission announced canceling or postponing events due to coronavirus. There are no cases of the disease confirmed in Lake County, but it's in accordance with a directive from the state to postpone or cancel non-essential gatherings through the end of the month. So the March 14th performance of the Rural Jazz Collective and March 21st performance of Wendy Dewitt's Hell'a Piano Party are canceled. As is the Lake County Winegrape Commission's Momentum 2020, a local wine industry event set for March 26th.

Normal visits will not be allowed at the Lake County Jail. The Sheriff's Office announced it's because of COVID-19. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Detention Division made the same announcement. The Lake County office says they understand how visitation is essential for rehabilitation, but right now, they have to make difficult decisions to protect the health and wellness of all who live, work at or visit the jail. Family and legal visits will be held as scheduled for a spouse or domestic partner, children, parents and siblings only. They're also canceling nonessential events and tours. They're also working to continuously keep staff informed of the situation, like giving them information from the CDC and Public Health agencies.

The Napa County Public Health Officer has declared a local health emergency. Much like Lake and Mendocino County before it. Dr. Karen Relucio declared the local emergency for Napa County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic but they have no confirmed cases. It's just to get resources faster, move quicker with emergency planning and response, and get future reimbursement by the state and federal governments if there are cases. The declaration is for seven days and has to be ratified by the Napa County Board of Supervisors. So far 33 counties, cities and tribes have declared public health emergencies, including Lake, Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Clara, San Diego and Sonoma Counties.

California Community colleges are suspending their in person classes due to the coronavirus. Many are doing online instruction and calling for an early spring break first. Presidents of various campuses held a webinar earlier this week and the statewide chancellor said they don't have to go thru a formal approval process to do so. There are 114 community colleges in the state with about a quarter of them announcing online instruction to prevent the spread of the virus. There are more than 2 million students in the system, most go part time. Yuba Community College in Clearlake, (Woodland Community College) announced online yesterday that they were one of the many. The City College of San Francisco canceled in person classes and is moving into spring break a week early. Same with two in Santa Clara County where one Corona patient died. Same for Berkeley City College and the College of Alameda.

Calif. Congressmembers Mike Thompson, John Garamendi, Jared Huffman and Doris Matsui have introduced a bill so cruise lines will have to pay back passengers who had their trips canceled because of the coronavirus. This for tickets purchased on or before February 1, 2020. It would apply to cancellations from the cruise line or the passenger because of the ongoing pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised that travelers defer all cruise ship travel at this time. Huffman says it's important for travelers to cancel if they don't feel safe without worrying about losing their hard earned money.

Ukiah Schools are closing due to concerns about coronavirus. Schools will close tomorrow thru spring break, April 13th. Students will transition to remote learning, getting complete lessons for home schooling. They will not offer any after school activities or childcare, and field trips. The administrators say they will communicate in the near future about remote learning, meals, and social-emotional support for our students.

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The California Gov. is calling for seniors and people with chronic conditions to stay inside during the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. The Governor says they will have more instructions tomorrow after the administration and private industry get together on the details. The governor has not given any date he expects the self-isolation to end. It's also not illegal yet, but the governor says he would consider an executive order if he had to, to make it mandatory if the directive is not followed.

The California Gov. has ordered all bars, wineries, nightclubs and brewpubs to close and is urging seniors and others with chronic health conditions to isolate themselves at home so the spread of coronavirus slows. And restaurants and pubs, and nightclubs will start closing down. The same is being required in other states, including Illinois and Ohio with other states considering the same measures. Newsom is offering these as guidelines and says they'll enforce if necessary as the sixth death was recorded.

Calif. State health officials are also asking movie theaters to keep attendance lower and have people sit six feet apart from strangers. Same for gambling venues, casinos are being told to have clean chips and clean slot machines more often.

Verily, the life sciences arm of Google's parent company Alphabet, is helping San Francisco launch a tool to help people find coronavirus testing. Something President Trump alluded to in his press conference with various CEO's last Friday. The online tool would direct people to mobile, drive-thru testing. The first in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. There are now more hospital beds available and closed hospitals will be reopening in coming days. They're also trying to get more of the state's 108,000 homeless people indoors.

Some stores have also limited sales of toilet paper and other items to stop hoarding. Thousands are being told to work at home if they can. And colleges, universities are holding classes online and public schools are closing for at least a month. Some school districts were offering meals to the neediest and in San Francisco libraries and indoor recreation centers are being turned into childcare centers for low-income families.

A mock frost at the recycled water or purple pipe project has gone off without a hitch. Ukiah's director of water and sewer utilities says the frost test went better than they expected. Last Thursday they had sprinklers connected to the purple pipe running. Some who were part of the test said the water pressure was fine and there were no issues. The recycled water project can deliver around 3,400 gallons of water a minute, nearly 5 million gallons/day. They released about 4 million gallons Thursday.

After the president said health insurance companies have agreed to waive any copayments for coronavirus, some insurers say, that's not exactly right. UnitedHealthcare says they indeed are waiving cost sharing, including copays, coinsurance and deductibles, for COVID-19 diagnostic testing at approved locations. Aetna says they'll do the same. Same for Anthem, but some can only get tested at emergency rooms, so that's a different story.

A healthcare worker in Rohnert Park has been diagnosed with the coronavirus, one of two new cases. Health officials in Sonoma County report, before this, three cases connected to cruise ships were noted, but these two latest cases popped up this weekend. An employee at Rohnert Park Health Center the first person to have contracted coronavirus locally. But they state they believe it was contracted outside their facility.

A judge in Northern California has approved a request by prosecutors in the Golden State Killer case to request more DNA from the man charged in connection to the case. The judge also says the prosecution can decide whether or not to offer Joseph James DeAngelo the ability to plead guilty so he can avoid the death penalty. The former police officer is accused of more than a dozen murders and more than 50 rapes in the 1970s and 1980s. Prosecutors were allowed to take 4 more swabs of DNA from DeAngelo so he can potentially be linked to other cases. DNA was taken 2 years ago when he was first arrested for more than 2 rapes.

Lake County schools are closing until the beginning of April due to the coronavirus. Superintendents for schools met last night and made the decision even though there are no cases of the virus in Lake County, but the Lake County Sheriff's office declared a state of emergency late Friday afternoon due to local cases of COVID-19 in neighboring counties. Lake Co News reports the Office of Education will get more info out to families and update the situation on the Lake County Office of Education's website.

The Ukiah Senior Center has announced a cancelation of a free tax service. The AARP free tax prep service which had been set for every Monday and Wednesday until April 15th will not go on, for now.

Redwood Coast Village which coordinates volunteer help for seniors says they're in dire need of volunteers under the age of 65 to help for essential services. Lake Co News reports Redwood Coast had just started a phone buddy system, they need driving and food shopping help. For more info call 707-442-3763 x217 or email

[rcv@redwoodcoastvillage.org](mailto:rcv@redwoodcoastvillage.org).

After the statewide public health state of emergency was declared in Calif. the Mendocino County Public Health Officer followed suit for a county wide public health emergency. That's for the county to be reimbursed for any expenses incurred related to the coronavirus. Now we're hearing about price gouging. The County is reminding that price gouging of up to 10% higher than what the price was on March 3rd, the day before the public health emergency was declared, is prohibited. Anyone caught price gouging could face criminal charges, be jailed and face fines of up to \$10,000. The County also says while there could be legitimate reasons to raise prices, that will be at the discretion of the District Attorney.

A departure plan has been agreed to finally for the Grand Princess cruise ship that's been docked off the Port of Oakland after disembarking, then quarantining passengers. Now crew members were able to leave the ship which were temporarily anchored in the San Francisco Bay as chartered flights were brought in for the crew to a non-commercial portion of San Francisco International Airport. The ship was set to leave last night and as of Saturday more than 2,900 individuals, including more than 2,400 passengers and more than 500 crew had disembarked. The ship was hit by the coronavirus on a previous voyage. It will be remediated and decontaminated with a bleach solution to disinfect it.



The Fort Bragg Police Department says it's closing its front lobby immediately to protect the community from coronavirus. The police department out with a statement this morning that they will not be providing fingerprint services to the public at this time either. They will still help the public in person, but you have to call the front office first to request service. They go on to say, it's not uncommon for them to have up to eight people in the lobby at a time for various reasons so they're encouraging most services over the phone when possible. They will also not be available for any public meetings between now and April 6th. Any meetings scheduled during that time period will need to be moved to a different location or cancelled.

No cases of the coronavirus in Lake County but the Public Health Officer says there could be cases they don't know about due to the ability to test people for COVID-19. On Friday Dr. Gary Pace declared a public health emergency because of the virus in neighboring regions. He says residents in Lake County are at low risk of getting the illness, and tests are generally back within two days. But he says they've been extremely limited because the system has been bottlenecked. He says things are improving slowly though. People at high risk will be prioritized, those who have traveled abroad, have underlying health issues, have been exposed to a confirmed case, work in a high risk situation, like a healthcare facility or are very sick.

Lakeport is considering declaring a citywide emergency due to coronavirus. The Lakeport City Council will take up the matter at their meeting tomorrow. There are already state and federal declarations. Lake Co News reports the City Council will also consider the proposed adoption of the Lake County Master Broadband Plan prepared by the Upstate California Connect Consortium to assess the landscape for residential and business customers. They will also consider a resolution to use SB1 money to repair some roads. The city should be able to pull about \$91,000 out of that fund for this fiscal year.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley says they are ready for coronavirus should there be a local case. President Jason Wells says staff are taking necessary precautions to protect themselves, so they don't end up quarantined.

The hospital's chief medical officer Dr. Bassant Parker....

Wells says there will be no visitors allowed now, like many other hospitals across the country....

They have 100 beds total, and Wells says they can increase as needed....

The first public discussion is planned for the Lake County Board of Supervisors on the coronavirus. The board's meeting at the usual time tomorrow morning in the courthouse. You can watch the meeting online at the County website or on Channel 8. The board is also expected to ratify the Sheriff's emergency proclamation from last Friday.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. says due to the coronavirus they're changing protocol for how they patrol. They will follow directions and guidelines being distributed by the CDC and Mendocino County Department of Public Health. So office employees will try to handle non emergencies on the phone first. Dispatch will ask for your phone number so deputies can first try to solve your issue via telephone. They will dispatch officers as needed and assess the possible exposure to officers of coronavirus. The lobby will also be closed at Fort Bragg and other offices until further notice, but staffing levels will not change. The main office in Ukiah will stay open to the public, but no live-scan fingerprinting will take place. Walk in traffic will mostly be on the lobby phone for non-emergency service.

Clearlake police justified in the deadly shooting of a man who was stabbing his half-brother. The D-A's office ruled the shooting death of Rocco Morgan, Jr. last July by officer Brittany Shores was justified. District Attorney Susan Krones says Morgan was shot by Shores as she saw him beating his brother and stabbing him. She believed the victim's life was in danger and fired a shot, which did nothing, so she fired again before leaving to get backup officers. Morgan was taken to a hospital and died later.

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The City of Willits reports taking major precautions due to the outbreak... City Hall is reducing its hours from 10-4 for the public. They are canceling the March 25th meeting, the next one April 8th might also be canceled. All events of over 25 set for the Community Center have been canceled, the Community Development Department will be closed to the public and will have meetings via phone. All essential meetings are canceled, water shutoffs are postponed for a month. They want people, whenever possible, to use the drop box in front of City Hall, pay by mail or use their website. Police and Sheriff substations are limiting call response to only urgent calls and encouraging phone calling instead of in person visits.

Mendocino County Public Health says it's actively responding to the threat of COVID-19 and after the local emergency was called on March 4th, there are no local cases. But since there's rapid spread in San Francisco, Mendocino County is following CDC guidance and ordering a ban on non-essential public gatherings of 50 people or more. Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says there should be social distancing in gatherings of 10-50 people, and mitigation measures have to be implemented. Any violation of an order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. The order in coordination with the big 6 Bay Area counties (San Francisco, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa and Alameda). A press conference is being held this afternoon with more information for the public which will be live streamed on the Mendocino County YouTube Channel ([www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo](http://www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/](http://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/)).

Some restaurants and bars staying open even after the Governor issued a directive for closures. The Daily Journal reports visiting some businesses who said they would only close, when forced to do so. The newspaper reports Safeway on South State Street had modified its hours, open 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Ukiah Natural Foods had modified fresh selections, closing the salad bar and removing seating near the coffee and juice bar.

MTA is closing their office in Ukiah and implementing work from home rules for their non-essential staff. They say they may also have to reduce service or modify some schedules. They're monitoring phone calls at dispatch and will update their website as needed.

Other sources of information you can monitor on a regular basis are the Mendocino County Department of Public Health  
<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/health-and-human-services-a>  
and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Safeway has announced hiring a massive amount of people because of panic shopping due to the coronavirus. The hiring in Northern Calif, with more than 2,000 immediate openings at Safeway, Andronico's, Vons, and Pak 'N Save stores. The openings area also for western Nevada, and Hawaii. The hiring includes paid training, flexible scheduling, and employee discounts at Safeway. If you apply to be a delivery driver, a commercial driver's license is not required.

More instructions from the state regarding food, beverage and other service venues. The governor says the new aggressive, but necessary actions will protect communities. Bars, wineries, breweries and pubs should be closed, except for venues authorized for the sale of beer and wine to be consumed off premises. And any that provide meals are considered restaurants for these purposes, they should be closed for in-restaurant seated dining and open only for delivery or drive thru. The state says to remind employees about best hygiene practices, clean more, including menus, cash registers, pens, pencils and nonfood contact areas. Make sure there's social distancing and limit how many people line up for food.

The Mendocino County Health Officer tweeted a photo of herself and another staffer with a box of coronavirus test kits. The caption says "We've got COVID-19 test kits!" But they only received 50 of them. They've used 38 of those with 0 positives, 16 negatives and 22 pending.

The Mendocino County Health Officer, CEO and schools Superintendent announcing schools transitioning to modified schooling today. Home schooling thru at least April 3rd with no work right now, as this would be spring break. Teachers are meeting today to decide how to deliver the schoolwork to kids. Teachers looking to distribute thru email or Google Classroom. Anyone without internet can get it printed. In Fort Bragg and other schools, meals can be provided for kids but the child has to be at the school to receive it.

Dollar General stores are having senior only time before opening. Starting today the corporate office is encouraging member stores to have their first hour of operation for seniors only. The CEO thanking customers for their understanding of this decision and asking those younger to visit later in the day so at risk populations can get there first and alone. With this announcement, they say they'll also close an hour earlier for employees to clean and restock.

**Intro: Sacramento lawmakers are pressing for health-care reforms that they say will help combat COVID-19. The Health 4 All Coalition announced their legislative priorities for 2020 on Monday — designed to get more people covered and cut costs for patients. State Senator Richard Pan, who also is a pediatrician, says Senate Bill 65 would cap health insurance premiums and copays at a percentage of people's income.**

:07 "We need to provide some limits on cost sharing so that people don't just have coverage but they can actually afford to get the care. "

**Tag: Another bill would have the state of California start manufacturing generic drugs so no company could gouge consumers.**

**Second Cut: Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula, also a doctor, has sponsored Assembly Bill 4, which would open up Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults, regardless of immigration status. He says we can't stop the spread of disease while hundreds of thousands remain uninsured.**

:07 "Health care is a human right. Our undocumented Californians should be treated with the same dignity and given this right."

**Third Cut: Last year California expanded Medi-Cal to include undocumented low-income young adults. State Senator Maria Elena Durazo says the next step is to include undocumented seniors.**

:15 "The health-care safety net system has always been the smartest thing to do, and that's even more important right now."

**Tag: The Health 4 All coalition also supports a bill to establish a state office of health-care affordability; and one to raise the assets limit for seniors so they don't lose access to Medi-Cal for having small amounts of savings.**

It may not be long before residents in Sonoma County are told they must shelter in place at home for up to three weeks so they don't come into contact with anyone else. There are already 7 million people in six other Bay Area counties with the same restrictions on travel and business operations. The county's interim public health officer has not decided yet, but there may be an announcement sometime today. The first confirmed case of a resident infected from an unknown local source has heightened the local public health emergency. And then another person was revealed to have COVID-19 over the weekend, but they haven't said how that person contracted the illness.

The DMV out with new guidelines due to the pandemic. They're asking law enforcement not to be terribly strict for 60 days while enforcing driver license and vehicle registration expiration dates, using their own discretion so at-risk people like seniors and folks with underlying health conditions don't need to visit a DMV field office. The 60 day period from yesterday, to protect other DMV customers who would otherwise have to come to a DMV office, but are worried they may get sick. The agency says most things you need to do at the DMV can be done online, thru snailmail or at kiosks statewide or in their business partner locations. So they're telling police to be flexible during this unprecedented time. If you need a REAL ID, the federal government requires an office visit though.

Lawmakers are reportedly approving as much as \$1 billion in new spending for the coronavirus outbreak. They immediately suspended work for the next month too. This is reported to be the first unexpected work stoppage in the Legislature in 158 years. It comes after lawmakers in both parties voted overwhelmingly to allow the Gov. Gavin Newsom to spend money without their oversight. A government historian says the last time lawmakers unexpectedly suspended meetings was back in 1862, when a flood took over most of the capitol and also forced the new governor at the time, Leland Stanford to use a boat to get to his inauguration.

State Senator Mike McGuire and Mendocino County public officials, and Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins are having a "telephone town hall" on coronavirus. The meeting tomorrow where you can call in, listen or email questions ahead of time. McGuire's office says they're working with all levels of government to ensure a unified approach to the coronavirus response on the North Coast and that needs are being met. He says they also want to make sure residents are up to date on the most accurate information to protect themselves, their families and their communities.

The telephone town hall this tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

**Who: Senator Mike McGuire, Mendocino County leaders, public health officials and the county Superintendent of Schools.**

**What: Telephone Town Hall to provide the latest updates on our response to the coronavirus.**

**When: This coming Wednesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

**How to attend: Dial (877) 226-8216, enter code 2864418 and follow the prompts. You will be connected to the live town hall via telephone and you will be able to listen to the officials providing updates. Email your questions and comments in advance and in real time on Wednesday evening to: [Senator.McGuire@Senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.McGuire@Senate.ca.gov)**

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer has announced a Shelter in Place stance similar to surrounding counties even though there are no local confirmed cases. Health Officer Noemi Mimi Doohan has ordered the Shelter in Place in a coordinated effort with the big 6 Bay Area counties (San Francisco, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa and Alameda). Since Sonoma County's Shelter-In-Place Order, Dr. Doohan issued the local order in alignment with the region. The Health Order takes effect today at 5:00 p.m. goes into full effect at 10:00 p.m. in response to almost 300 confirmed cases and 5 deaths in the seven Bay Area jurisdictions plus community spread in neighboring counties. The Health Officer is recommending residents cancel any nonessential travel to any of the Bay Area counties. Please visit <http://www.mendocinocounty.org> for the latest local news on COVID-19. For general health related questions or other concerns regarding COVID-19, please call Mendocino County's Call Center at (707) 234-6052 or email [callcenter@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:callcenter@mendocinocounty.org). The call center will be open during regular business hours, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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The Health Officer has also announced a three week ban on public and private gatherings of more than 50 people. This will last until April 7th. Further, any gatherings of 10-50 people should use social distances of at least six feet from any other attendee. The order differs from a directive, in that orders allow the sheriff's office to enforce the orders if they're not followed. Any violation is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. The Sheriff also at the press conference yesterday. Sheriff Kendall says he consulted with police chiefs in Mendocino County and they'd educate people first before punishing. The Sheriff says there will also be more deputies on the street since they won't be sending any personnel to training in different parts of the state.

The health officer says they've completed 52 tests, three by the public health lab, and 49 at commercial health labs. 19 were negative, and the rest are pending. She says there's currently no evidence of community spread in Mendocino County and there's a shortage of tests and a problem getting them back quickly too, like many other places across the country. Doohan says she believes they will get more tests and there is no evidence there's any clustering of cases or any confirmed cases.

No more on site education in Ukiah Unified School District. There's now remote learning, which began yesterday and will, for now, continue thru Spring Break on Monday, April 13th. Also, no after school activities, childcare, or field trips. The County CEO says they'll decide in the next few days which offices will stay open as some are larger than others. The Board of Supervisors are also holding a special meeting to deal with the crisis this Friday March 20th at 9 am. There will also be a virtual meeting held for faith based leaders and churches coming up, but no date certain was given. They will talk about ways to provide essential services to seniors and possible food options. And the County says it's monitoring folks returning from high-risk countries, and are checking with them daily and bringing food to them if they need it.

Hoarding is the new normal as Americans stock up on everything to clean their homes to reduce the risk. California's state water regulators are reminding people not to flush the cleaning solutions down the toilet as they don't break down like toilet paper. There are already reports of problems in some sewer systems. The State Water Resources Control Board says wipes, paper towels and similar products flushed down toilets will clog sewers and cause backups and overflows at wastewater treatment plants which is another public health risk during the coronavirus pandemic.

Some students who attend Universities in Calif. who will now switch to online learning say they want a tuition discount. The Press Democrat reports there's now an online petition circulating after University of California Irvine freshman Rose Oganessian considered it shouldn't be the same price. Oganessian's petition says students should get at least a partial refund whether they start their spring quarter later this month or if they're already in the middle of their spring semester. As of the last check there were already more than 5,200 who'd signed the petition originally just for UC Irvine, then amended to include all public campuses in California.

The interim public health officer in Sonoma County has ordered all residents to stay at home and limit all but essential business and government operations for three weeks. The mandatory directive, but not an order, due to the coronavirus. It was issued last night and continues until at least until April 7th. There are four confirmed cases in Sonoma County from community spread. Three were healthcare workers. Dr. Mase says if they don't have any preventative measures, there could be a peak of cases that could tax the healthcare system and put it overcapacity.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors' Vision 2028 Statement" meeting's first order will be to figure out ways to promote economic resilience for Lake County residents. The Board met at their regular time on Tuesday and talked about the potential for community spread of the virus. There have been no confirmed cases in the County so far. The Board Chair Moke Simon says they're taking it very seriously and have to keep residents safe, especially the most vulnerable. The Board moved to ratify Sheriff Martin's Emergency Proclamation and adopt a Resolution so that residents are not evicted right now if they cannot pay their rent because of COVID-19.

They're also trying to find a way so there's electronic access to Board meetings, and are working on continuing as many County services as can be responsibly provided.

A body found along the Mendocino Coast earlier this month was a man missing for a year and a half. The Sheriff's Dept. says it was 44 year old Lewis Compton of Westport who was out of touch with his family since November of 2018 after running from a CHP officer investigating a hit-and-run crash. Cops say the man had run from the crash, then abandoned a Jeep on the side of Highway 1. He was reported missing six days later, but deputies didn't search because they were reportedly concerned he might have been armed. Then March 7th, near where his abandoned jeep was first found, human remains, clothes and shoes were found. State Assemblyman Jim Wood, who's also a forensic dentist, compared Compton's dental records and the skeleton's teeth, finding they were a match.

We have a shelter in place order in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Mimi Doohan says, yes, the 7 other nearby counties, are not that nearby, but it's the smartest thing to do, based on science after cases arose regionally, starting with the epicenter in Santa Clara County where a couple of cases first arose in Northern Calif. Many people at yesterday's meeting spoke out, including some healthcare providers. Dr. Suzanne Hiramatsu, a Physician at Ukiah Valley ER says she agrees with Dr. Doohan's Shelter in Place Order as does, Harvard Schooled, Ukiah resident, Dr. Drew Colfax...

The Public Health Officer in Lake County says testing for the virus is limited everywhere, including Lake County. Dr. Gary Pace says that means if the virus hits locally it may be too much for health care facilities to handle. The comments at yesterday's Board of Supervisors meeting where he updated county leaders on local developments. He told the Board he wasn't sure how long things would go on, and that, "It's a sobering time." There were also two new public health orders, one about school closures, the other on limiting groups. And like other regional counties, he encouraged, but did not order residents to shelter in place. He says testing has been a challenge after some private labs sent tests back because they were overwhelmed or it would take a week to get results. The public health lab in Santa Rosa is reportedly running tests for three counties, including Lake, the others are Sonoma and Mendocino. But those tests are only being run on very sick individuals.

The Clearlake City Council is prepared to ratify a local emergency proclamation connected to the virus. They also say their next meeting for tomorrow night will be livestreamed on PEG TV's Youtube Channel. The streaming meeting after the Governor issued an Executive Order allowing council members to attend city council meetings telephonically. They're also encouraging community members to do the same, saying they can observe in person, but due to current health risks, they can also watch online. The City Council will talk COVID-19, but is also going to consider the purchase of Austin Resort which is located across from City Hall.

The Gov. has announced the California National Guard is now on alert to protect local communities and to help fight the spread of COVID-19. The Guard directed by Gov. Newsom for humanitarian missions, including food distribution, ensuring resiliency of supply lines, and supporting public safety as required.

There's a confirmed case of coronavirus in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Mimi Doohan had already announced a shelter in place directive starting last night until April 7th. This comes after Sonoma County's order and the confirmation, now, of the confirmed case of COVID-19. Dr. Doohan says it's not surprising after surrounding counties had reported cases and community spread. The order to be sure the maximum amount of people shelter in their homes to slow the spread of the disease. It directs residents to stay home except for Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, and Essential Government Functions. It means social distancing if there are shared spaces to protect the public's health. The order will be enforceable

03/19/20 by law.

The MTA reports they're reducing bus service in Mendocino County. Starting today buses won't run as frequently, and there will be no Sunday service at all during coronavirus health advisories. after 4pm, temporary schedules will be updated inside all buses, bus shelters, on social media at [mendocinotransit.org](http://mendocinotransit.org). the buses are equipped with hand sanitizing wipes as supplies last and they're disinfecting interior bus surfaces whenever the buses are in service.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office has ordered no visitors at the jail. The order to protect the inmate community and others from coronavirus. There are no cases in the jail though. Starting last night family visitation was being cancelled. The Lake County Sheriff's office announced they understand and value that visitation is an essential part of rehabilitation, but at this time they have to make difficult decisions to protect the health and wellness of all who live and work in the Jail.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office commenting on their new Shelter in Place order saying they know there will be significant hardships due to the cancellation of certain events, school closures, limiting group activities, and the closing of bars and tasting rooms. The order went into effect this morning at 12:01 AM asking everyone to stay home with family, except for essential activities. It follows the big 6 Bay Area Counties and Sonoma and Mendocino County, which just announced the same yesterday, at the same time the first case arose there. There are so far, no cases confirmed in Lake County and there have only been tests on a few dozen. The Public Health Officer reports they're trying to get more tests and more laboratory capacity. The order goes through April 10th.

A local emergency has been declared in the City of Willits. The City following the orders of the Mendocino County Public Health Officer and says they're announcing a Shelter in Place order following Mendocino County. The city says the emergency order gives them the opportunity to mobilize resources, accelerate emergency planning, streamline staffing, facilitate inter-agency coordination, and allow for potential future reimbursement by the state and federal governments. The Emergency Operations Center will also open, at the lowest level, in Willits. That will allow the City to coordinate with its dispatch center. But city facilities and departments are closed except very limited hours at City Hall for essential services. They encourage residents to use their website and drop box to make payments or send them thru regular mail.

After the announcement of the Shelter in Place in Mendocino County, a group of business owners and managers got together to talk about the response. The Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo was in attendance. And a representative from Kwine was there with the following information, Santa Clara County is a hot spot, the first couple of cases came from there, one from a cruise ship passenger, who has since died. And they mentioned the state of other Bay Area counties not being good. They have a couple of ideas on response, either, test and isolate people who test positive and isolating anyone who had any contact with that person, or what we are currently doing, shelter in place. The Public Health Officer has warned that things could change on a dime, as they have been day by day. People will continue to be tested, but they also warned that there could be people walking around with the virus who show no symptoms.

The Public Health Officer in Lake County is issuing a shelter in place order, following several other counties, and joining with the 8 million ordered to stay home during the coronavirus outbreak. Dr. Gary Pace says the order as of 12:01 a.m. means no travel unnecessarily or conducting of nonessential business outside your home, of course there are exceptions including allowing people to shop for food and get medical care. The order is in effect until April 10th to slow the entrance and spread in the community. He says the outbreak response is continually changing but due to the increased spread of the infection in the Bay Area. He says the order is to limit mixing of people so there's less opportunity to spread the virus. They ask not to call the Sheriff's Dept. or police or 911 for non-emergencies.

A temporary closure of California State Parks to camping has been announced. But non-campground outdoor areas of parks, including trails and beaches, are open. They remind you if visiting a park to practice social distancing with at least six feet between other visitors and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Restrooms are staying open, and visitors are advised to take soap for hand washing and alcohol-based hand sanitizers if there's no water available. This follows an order for the temporary suspension of all guided tours and large events and the closure of visitor centers and museums.



Lakeport has announced an emergency proclamation because of the coronavirus. The City Council declared the local emergency at a special meeting before their regular meeting Tuesday where they also approved a broadband implementation plan and upcoming infrastructure projects. The City Council will have to approve the emergency proclamation at every council meeting. After the proclamation was approved the city manager sent out a Nixle alert to start the process. As with orders in many other cities and counties in the state, it means a stop to all non-essential activities or travel and limiting activities to grocery shopping, getting gas, going to doctor's appointments and following court orders.

Free meals are being offered to Ukiah Unified School District students during this home-schooling period. Kids 18 years old and younger can get a grab-and-go breakfast and lunch during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. They normally serve as many as 5,500 meals a day and since there was community wide interest in providing the meals during the home schooling period, it was decided to continue. Funding comes from state and federal reimbursement programs. So bagged meals are available at schools until April 13th. But the locations could change with the new county-wide Shelter-In-Place Order which began last night at 10 p.m.

A man in Ukiah has been jailed on attempted murder charges after reportedly beating another man and leaving him at a shopping center alone. Police say they got a call to a loading dock behind the CVS on South Orchard Avenue Tuesday morning after a man was seen lying in a pool of blood. Police say he was bleeding from his head. After speaking with another man at the incident, he denied knowing anything. Then officers say the guy, identified as David Giusti starting leaving the area, but they detained him, finding he was covered in blood and had a bloody wooden dowel with his personal belongings in a shopping cart. Apparently Giusti and the victim had an argument, so he was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting great bodily injury and mayhem (permanently disfiguring). He was held on \$250,000 bail.

A couple more cases have been confirmed in Sonoma County as more tests are being done. The Public Health Officer says there's been a shortage of test kits and that's slowed testing. There have been about 200 tests at county, state and federal laboratories. 159 tests were completed a week ago at five local health centers to see if there was community spread. Two new cases were confirmed yesterday. So there's been a total now of six in Sonoma County. Health Care providers following the testing criteria from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: fever, cough and shortness of breath, and if there's been travel to coronavirus crisis areas like, China, Italy and Spain.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is closed to the public. The lobby will stay closed until 04/13/2020 so if you're reporting a crime or have an emergency, call Central Dispatch or 911. For non emergencies call the main number. If you need to speak with someone at the Sheriff's Main Office please call the office main line at (707)262-4200.

The Governor has announced a major uptick in Unemployment Development claims. Gov. Newsom reported 80-thousand claims filed Tuesday alone, compared to an average day of about 2,000 claims. The hospitality industry especially suffering. A union representing restaurant and hotel workers in the Sacramento area says it's hit their members hard. Most hotels they have employees working at are normally about 85% filled this time of year, now they're at 25-30% occupancy. The Employment Development Dept. says they're working as fast as they can to process claims, even calling retired workers back in to help with the massive surge in claims.

A day after the governor commented that most schools probably wouldn't come back this academic year, he issued an executive order to suspend standardized tests. That means regular testing for more than 6 million students will be put off, but it still has to be approved by the federal government. Gov. Newsom says it's stressful enough for students, families and educators right now without the additional burden of annual testing. He says their main focus is to support the mental and socioemotional health of students while still providing educational opportunities like distance learning. Federal loans may be available to businesses in Northern Calif. thru the Small Business Administration after the emergency declaration due to COVID-19. That includes Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Sonoma Lake, Mendocino and Napa counties. The declaration due to economic impacts because of coronavirus starting in Jan. It's part of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for small, nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private nonprofit organizations of any size.

The deadline to apply for business economic injury is Dec. 16, 2020.

All Mendocino County Elected Officials and Department Heads are being allowed to close their offices to the public, to help protect the health of their employees while still providing essential public services. Essential services will stay open, but all non-essential services will be closed. The lobby and reception area for Health and Human Services will be closed, but they'll be providing any emergency or critical services to protect and support the community. The Treasurer Tax Collector is not changing the deadline for property taxes due to state law. So they ask payments to be snailmailed in. The Assessor – Clerk – Recorder announced they're open by appointment only and have limited essential functions. They would like a phone call first. They're also finishing work on the primary which just happened a couple weeks ago.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is doing all work virtually and won't be having any in person participation. You can livestream on the county's YouTube page. The new state order effective tomorrow will suspend a Brown Act requirement for Board members for one member to be physically present and for the public to be able to access the teleconference location. This is to minimize the risk of exposure to the public. You can submit questions to the board via email instead and public comment will be attached with the latest agenda on the board's website.

[bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)

<https://mendocino.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

The manager of Angelina's grill and bar in Fort Bragg reached out to our news department to let the public know they're open for delivery with food runners or curbside service between 10 AM and 7 PM.

The Mayor of Fort Bragg has posted a letter to the public online, thanking folks for their kindness. And because of the shelter in place order from the Public Health Officer, just a reminder to only conduct essential business which includes, getting any needed medications, visiting doctors, dentists and taking animals to their doctors too. You are also allowed essential exercise like walking, jogging or strolling along the Coastal Trail or at Otis Johnson Park. And a reminder too, to walk with family, but keep a six-foot distance from strangers as you exercise and get fresh air. Also to offer those in need a helping hand with the same, and to support local businesses during this time of crisis.

03/20/20 More info on the first case of coronavirus in Mendocino County, a woman under 30 years old. Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan says the case was probably due to contact with someone else who had been diagnosed with COVID-19, so now they're tracking all known contacts...

The case was diagnosed at a clinic and the patient did not need to be hospitalized. She is said to be in isolation with her condition improving. She is not a threat to public health.

Doohan says she had to call a business who was actively disregarding the order to close, Breakers Inn and the Vue restaurant in Gualala. The health order says restaurants can prepare and serve food, but "only for delivery and carry out."

The Sheriff has reminded the public that health orders, and now, we are assuming here, that the Governor's order, will all be enforceable by law. The Sheriff says enforcement is mostly education, to begin with.

A resolution to declare a state of emergency in Ukiah was done online, the city council meeting virtually. The meeting was streaming from council chambers Wednesday and in the physical chambers were only the City Clerk, City Manager and Council member Jim Brown. City hall has been closed to the public, but public meetings access has been allowed so far. The agendas are for routine and urgent business only with no sensitive matter being streamed. The City Manager says critical government services needed for the community will continue and that they're focused on utility services, water, sewer and electric.

Before the Gov. ordered the statewide shelter in place, Coyote Valley Casino in Redwood Valley said it was closing until at least April 7th. This after health experts said it was wise. But their Coyote Valley C-Store and gas pumps remain open, because they're considered an essential business. They opened in 2016. Included nearby are nearly 50 homes, a community center, a hotel was supposed to open later this year.

Since the expanded testing in Sonoma County, another case turned up, the ninth. Now they're dealing with a shortage of supplies, with county officials asking for state and federal help. There's been 229 tests in Sonoma County, with nine positive results and 207 negative. Thirteen tests are pending. And local officials say they need way more tests. Coronavirus tests are being done in Sonoma County by LabCorp, Quest Diagnostics, Kaiser Permanente and the county's health lab which now says it will get some test kits from Kaiser.

The Gov. has announced a shelter-in-place mandate for the whole state to slow the spread of coronavirus. A tweet with a link to his executive order last night. The mandate starts today. Governor Newsom's order says those in critical sectors should report to work. Also grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and other essential services will be open. Essential things you can do, get medications, shop for groceries and supplies, care for family members and exercise outdoors. This decision as the federal government announced more than \$1 billion in aid to sick residents and to be able to care for patients. The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in California was more than 800 yesterday after rising 21% overnight.

The Gov. warns as much as half of the state's population could get infected with the coronavirus during an eight-week period. Newsom sent a letter to President Trump saying the case rate in the state is doubling every four days. The letter says the Governor's office is projecting about 56 percent of the state's population — 25.5 million people — will become infected over an eight week period.

You can get your child's meals delivered from the Ukiah Unified School District. They're starting a delivery service today for any child 18 years of age or younger in the district with five routes Monday through Friday until further notice. Visit [www.uusd.net](http://www.uusd.net) and click on the link next to the school bus for a list of food delivery stops and times. They'll also continue the meal pickups at school sites from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at Frank Zeek, Grace Hudson, Nokomis, Oak Manor, and Yokayo Elementary Schools. In the Hopland, Calpella, and Eagle Peak areas, schools are one of the stops on the bus route. Students have to be present at the pickup sites.

Confirmation of more cases in Contra Costa County. Health officials confirmed a 42nd case yesterday afternoon. But it was only up one from the day before and only three more since Tuesday. The spread of confirmed cases there went from six March 6th to 39 Tuesday night.

Seniors are being allowed to shop before others at some markets across some Bay Area counties. Safeway has seniors-only hours due to binge buying during the pandemic. Things like bottled water, eggs, pasta, meat, and canned goods could be seen in the early hours. A spokesperson for Safeway says the dedicated hours are for seniors and other vulnerable customers. Target and some Safeways in San Jose reported toilet paper sold out within minutes after the doors opened for the day. So those stores, Whole Foods and Walmart have either started the senior and vulnerable customer hours or announced they would start soon.

In Lake County locals are urging seniors to start using available services like getting help with meal delivery, delivery services from pharmacies and other services available through local senior centers. Volunteers working thru Meals on Wheels are bringing food in Lakeport, Kelseyville and Lucerne for homebound seniors, and anything else they're in need of.

To find out what the current needs or ways to be a part of Lakeport's efforts, call the Lakeport Senior Activity Center at 707-263-4218 or join the [Covid19 – Lake County Seniors and Disabled Support Network Facebook grc](#)

Cops continue with services in Lake County, but will need phone calls first for non-emergencies, as we've been reporting, the same in Mendocino County. Lake Co News reports the Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin is only booking felony cases into jail and closed their lobby. You can visit their website to report crimes online. The news site reports Clearlake and Lakeport have closed their lobbies to the public too. For the police departments, besides reporting crimes online, you can stay in touch through their Facebook accounts.

The Clearlake City Council conducted a meeting by phone. Lake Co News reports the Mayor Russ Cremer and council members Phil Harris, Joyce Overton and Russell Perdock were in chambers, but with social distancing in place, and the Vice Mayor Dirk Slooten attended on the phone. The public could also watch online. This comes after the city's director of emergency services, who's also the city manager declared the local emergency due to the virus. There are still no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lake County. The council ratified the emergency declaration at the meeting and will again at their next April 2nd. The city council also unanimously voted for an urgency ordinance to stop evictions for nonpayment for at least 45 days.

The Sacramento Bee is reporting a lack of testing for coronavirus is preventing public health officials to know exactly how many people are infected. The newspaper reports there are most likely unidentified COVID-19 cases which therefore cannot be isolated. The report says the World Health Organization Director-General said testing, isolation and contact tracing are the “backbone of the response” to the pandemic, during a virtual press conference Monday, and that all countries should be able to test for suspected cases, without this, they cannot fight blindfolded and should know where the cases are. The Sacramento Bee report quotes a top health official who says testing in that region is so far behind where it should be, the actual number of those who are infected may be 20 to 100 times higher than what’s been reported.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer is reminding that her order for businesses to close is a legal document...

Dr. Noemi or Mimi Doohan says she ordered the closure of the Breakers Hotel and Vue Restaurant in Gualala.

Dr. Doohan says it’s going to hit some harder than others, but it’s what has to be done to protect healthcare workers and first responders.

The state Attorney General Xavier Becerra sending out notice to large online marketplaces they need to do more to fight price gouging as it relates to coronavirus. Becerra says price gouging during a time of national emergency is not only disgraceful, it’s illegal. He wants the platforms and marketplaces to take immediate and vigorous steps to eliminate predatory behavior, adding that they know it’s illegal. Becerra also says anybody who feels they may have been the victim of price gouging to report it to the state. Violators could face fines of up to \$10,000 and jail time.

The state unemployment office is reporting massive amounts of people filing for unemployment. The latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report says the week ending March 14th showed Californians filed more than 58,200 initial claims for jobless benefits, a 34% increase and 42% higher than a year ago. The Governor says it’s going to get even worse, adding the state had 80,000 unemployment applications only on Tuesday and they normally average about 2,000 unemployment claims a day.

A resident in Sonoma County has died from the virus. The Press Democrat reporting it’s the first resident to die from coronavirus and being hospitalized for serious illness. The newspaper reports the County’s Interim Public Health Officer got news of the death the same day the number of those with the virus doubled. Sutter Santa Rosa confirmed the death happened Friday. The Public Health Officer says we need to be prepared for it to get worse over the next week as each case infects three more people, but she also says it’s what they had been expected. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors says the virus is spreading throughout the community, but also says she believes they now have sufficient testing capability, so the numbers of positive tests going up is to be expected.

03/23/20

You may have felt an earthquake over the weekend. A 4.8-magnitude earthquake hit yesterday morning in the Pacific Ocean off Humboldt County. The U.S. Geological Survey reports the quake was 7-miles deep and hit about 30 miles west of Petrolia. Many shake reports coming from as far away as Chico and Crescent City, but the most coming from Eureka and Arcata. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

The governor has agreed to a deal so Pacific Gas & Electric can emerge from its bankruptcy filing this summer. Gov. Gavin Newsom and the utility company announced the deal Friday with PG&E agreeing to change the makeup of its board and operations and also agreed to move into the direction of a sale or the state taking over the company if it cannot get out of its bankruptcy by June 30th. The filing in bankruptcy court Friday that the utility agrees to more regulatory oversight and that it will pony up billions more for wildfire prevention. The CEO of the company says they are anticipating state regulators will approve of the final deal after the Governor supported it, so they can exit Chapter 11, pay wildfire victims as soon as possible, and participate in the state's Wildfire Fund.

A new surge tent has been set up at Ukiah Adventist Health for coronavirus patient care. The Daily Journal posted pictures of the new tent after getting a guided tour showing the hospital is ready for what may be to come. The newspaper reports the set up is in the emergency ambulance bay, and is fully equipped with private rooms for up to six patients at a time. It's ventilated for infection control, has lighting and heat and can be decontaminated and sterilized after every exam. If the tent reaches capacity, the hospital says there are other unused areas in the building that could also work for COVID-19 patient care.

Coronavirus cases are still rising regionally, but there are still no confirmed cases in Lake County. But there's still been people recreating in the face of the state's announced shelter in place order by the governor. So the Public Health Officer says he's got an addendum to his emergency order that starts this morning and will go until at least April 10th, immediate closure of County of Lake waterways, including Clear Lake, Blue Lakes, Highland Springs Reservoir, Cache Creek, Lake Pillsbury, Indian Valley Reservoir and any other public, navigable waterway to any recreational boating activity. He is also calling for the immediate end to lodging in hotels, motels, campgrounds, RV parks, and vacation rentals, except for medical staff, COVID 19 emergency workers, construction workers of critical infrastructure, and permanent residents who lived in those places before March 9th.

Anyone interested in being part of the next Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting is asked to contact them ahead of time if they want to participate. The Chair of the Board Moke Simon says we're in "unprecedented times" and that he knows "firsthand the severe effects this crisis is having on local businesses and families", adding that residents have to adapt, and do everything to keep people safe, which includes the way the board conducts business. So the board meeting's can be viewed online. The meeting tomorrow is moved until April 7th.

For those interested in viewing any discussion item, Board and Planning Commission meetings will be accessible through the County website and Lake County PEG TV (TV8). Agendas and live and archived video are available at:

<https://countyoflake.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

For needed County services, call ahead, the Department Directory is available at:

<http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Directory.htm>

Recent Press Releases and Public Health Orders from Dr. Gary Pace and more Lake County-focused information are available at

<http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus.htm>, and accessible through the County's homepage, <http://www.lakecountyca.gov/>. A Dashboard was recently developed, and provides key data, such as confirmed cases in surrounding California counties.

If you have public health-related questions about COVID-19, please direct them to [MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov), or call Public Health's COVID-19 line, at 707-263-8174.

Even though there's been a reprieve given to county's for the Presidential Primary election, the Lake County Registrar of Voters Office reports they will certify the results by the deadline of March 31st, next Tuesday. Governor Newsom had issued an Executive Order that had extended the deadline for County Election Officials to complete their official canvass of the March 3rd election and certify the election results by April 24th instead. The Lake County office says unless there are any unforeseen circumstances the official canvass won't be delayed. There's also a reminder for vote-by-mail voters who received a "Signature Verification Statement" or an "Unsigned Ballot Envelope Statement" that they have until March 27th to turn in those completed forms. They can do so thru the US Postal Service, a fax, email, or in person (by appointment only).

A man in Branscomb reports a burglary in progress at his home after he left just to cut wood. Mendocino Sheriff's Deputies went to the home and say they found there were three men who had all left before they got there. They reportedly ransacked the home and took a locked gun safe out to the driveway, damaged an expensive television set, writing on it in marker. The victim told police he dated one of three men's mom's and told them where she lived. They found the three men there, Winter Costa, Kameron Miller and Lucas Counts. Stolen property was found there, and they were arrested for Burglary, Conspiracy and Felony Vandalism. Plus Costa for making criminal threats. They were all being held on \$50,000.00 bail.

Since the risk from coronavirus continues escalating in the region, the Lake County Public Health Officer is adding on to other emergency orders already issued. Since Sonoma County had their first death from Coronavirus Friday and there's presumed community transmission with 11 known cases Dr. Gary Pace says most people are honoring the shelter in place order, even though there are no confirmed cases in Lake County. There are about 50 hospital beds, 11 ventilators with the potential to scale to 16 if needed for a population of 65,000. Dr. Pace says health facilities are actively engaged planning for the next phase of the outbreak, but resources are limited. He reminds not to ignore the stay at home order, not to mix with other people and ignore social distancing rules or have any out of town guests. He says churches need to cancel their in-person services and go to Facebook streaming or some other online strategy. Restaurants with indoor or outdoor dining need to change to take out, delivery, curbside and drive-through, bars and night clubs need to close. Small convenience or other stores selling mainly chips and candy are not essential and should be closed. All entertainment venues like golf courses, gun ranges, bowling alleys, movie theaters, swimming pools, skating rinks, skate parks, batting cages indoor & outdoor, all youth or adult sports events should close, all gyms, fitness studios including yoga, Thai Chi, boxing, karate, gymnastics, etc. should close. There should be no recreational outdoor events like disk golf, golf, boating, fishing (but fishing for food is okay), skate parks, basketball courts, tennis courts, etc. All convention Centers, and centers providing live entertainment should close as well as hair and nail salons, including spas, massage parlors and tattoo parlors. Local law enforcement, Health Department inspectors, and your neighbors will be monitoring the situation. Enforcement activities will be increased in the coming week.

If you have questions, look on the website: <http://health.co.lake.ca.us>

If you still have questions, send an email request:

[MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov).

You can also call during business hours: 707-263-8174



A man from Willits has been arrested after a fight at his home. Cops say they got a call to a brawl at a home in the city and when they got there, they say they found two men still actively fighting in a small travel trailer who had to be separated by Deputies. They say there was a woman there with a serious injury on her face and nose. So they interviewed others there, finding Shannon Henson was upset with the victim for inheriting the property they lived at. Deputies say Henson smashed the woman's truck windshield and went to his home located on the same property. The woman confronted him and says he punched her in the face. Her husband got involved, to try to stop the assault. The victim went to a hospital and Henson, who was found to be on probation, was arrested and held on \$35,000.00 bail.

Hands Up Lake County has a contest not unlike Shark Tank and Startup Mendocino to give seed money and training to startups, but in a competitive way. The nonprofit started after the 2018 Mendocino Complex fires. The two co-founders came up with the nonprofit after the River and Ranch fires. And after several businesses closed after, they started the Hand Up Lake County project. They say their new project will include a gala and monetary awards. They're accepting applicants April 1st to May 30th. You have to be at least 18 years old and have an idea for a local startup or already own a small business in Lake County to qualify.

To apply (for free) to the Hand Up Lake County contest, visit <http://www.1team1dream.net> for an online application beginning April 1. Contact Olga Steele at 916-849-8170 for more information.

Another case of coronavirus has turned up in Napa. Napa County Public Health confirmed the case Sunday, hours after the county's first case was found. The second case is someone in St. Helena where they are isolated and there's no known connection between the two. The County's Public Health Officer, like so many others across the country, says, with more testing, additional cases were not unexpected. She says it's critical for "those who have respiratory symptoms to stay at home and isolate themselves from others, even if they still feel well enough to go out".

More than \$40 million dollars has been diverted in emergency funding so California's health care system can get equipment and services for the response to coronavirus. \$30 million is going to lease Seton Medical Center in Daly City and St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles for three-months. Seton Medical Center is open and will expand capacity for up to 120 COVID-19 patients starting next week and St. Vincents, which closed in January, will reopen to care for up to 366 COVID-19 patients as soon as possible. This comes after the state already went into partnership with local officials, to reopen Community Hospital in Long Beach. It can care for up to 158 patients.

PG&E has pleaded guilty to criminal acts related to the Camp Fire in Butte County. The company admitted 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter as part of what might be considered a plea agreement with the State of California and the Butte County District Attorney's Office. For that, the company admits guilt to causing 84 deaths and another count of unlawfully causing a fire. This was in writing by the utility company in a filing with the SEC. That puts the company ahead of other catastrophes including the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010, where 11 people died in the Gulf of Mexico and its own deadly natural gas explosion the same year that killed eight in San Bruno, Calif. For that the company was also found guilty in court for felonies associated before and after the explosion.



Parks are still open in Sonoma County and now officials are considering closing them down after crowds were all over the beach and in recreational areas not paying any attention to social distancing guidelines. The Press Democrat reports non-essential park services were suspended and parks restrooms have been closed because of the coronavirus, but the newspaper is reporting there were massive crowds over the weekend at Sonoma and Marin County beaches and packed parking lots and jammed stretches of sand. Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins is in the district and says she's consulting with public health officials, the county administrator and the parks director about a response to the crowds and a possible closure of parks. Marin County on the other hand immediately closed all parks after Sunday's crowds.

With the Shelter in Place order, law enforcement say they're more in education mode, than enforcement. In Lake County the Public Health Officer ordered the shelter in place last week, then put in more restrictions closing down lakes and other local waterways and lodging facilities unless healthcare workers, COVID-19 emergency workers, construction workers of critical infrastructure and permanent residents living in vacation homes before March 9th. The public health officer also released more measures yesterday to clarify the previous orders and some local law enforcement say people coming into the area from elsewhere make restrictions even tighter. The Sheriff says there were loads of cars at local motels and folks standing close together at docks fishing, and not following social distancing guidelines. Many people reportedly coming from the Bay Area where

03/24/20 coronavirus numbers are climbing.

A generous donation by a local vineyard to help people in Napa, Mendocino and Lake Counties affected by the virus. Andy Beckstoffer of Beckstoffer Vineyards says they're donating \$100,000 by way of \$300 checks, 100 of them per county. It will be up to each County's Chamber of Commerce to decide what individuals and families get the money which will mostly be for hourly workers who have no job now because of layoffs from COVID-19. That will include hotel housekeepers, dishwashers, waitstaff, busboys and others. The checks will be made out to those chosen, not to Chambers of Commerce or other organizations and there will be no administrative costs or fees.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer is issuing a revised Health Order so it follows the state's more closely. The state issued its order last Thursday requiring all Californians to shelter in place, except for essential needs and to maintain or access critical systems or services. The State and Local Health Order says Sheltering-In-Place means staying at home and do not leave unless necessary to slow the spread of the virus. They warn to limit your essential activities as much as you can, leaving only to get food, see your doctor, fill a prescription, go to work if it's defined as essential, to get your children to and from childcare or help others you care for to get the things they need to live, be healthy and stay safe.

A meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to talk about a possible hemp ordinance to be placed in the Mendocino County code. It would also permit a temporary pilot program to grow industrial hemp in parts of the County. It comes after the board temporarily banned cultivating industrial hemp to protect marijuana from cross-pollination and so staffers could get information and recommendations from regional counties about possible regulations and ordinances. Hemp is legal in California and at the federal level, but there's been concern about possible damage to cannabis. The meeting tomorrow is online with some county staff at the chambers in Ukiah. There will be no in-person public participation to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

The state's been working to get more protective gear for healthcare workers and first responders, with work across the globe and locally to get the equipment shipped here. The state's trying to get 1 billion sets of gloves, hundreds of millions of gowns, surgical masks and face shields. The Gov. Gavin Newsom remarked yesterday it would take, a heroic effort to get the personal protection equipment for the expected surge in COVID-19 cases. The state's looking to charter flights from China with gear aboard, there's talk about 3-D printing of surgical masks and working with other states to get better deals on equipment and supplies. The Los Angeles Mayor says an Anheuser-Busch beer plant in Van Nuys is making hand sanitizer and another in Baldwinsville, New York, will be doing the same.

All jury trials are shut down for two months in Superior Court in Calif due to the virus. The Chief Justice announced the two month suspension yesterday. The Governor announced the closure of all parking lots at beaches and state parks to prevent the spread of the virus after reports of massive amounts of people on the beach and in the mountains the first weekend of the statewide shelter in place order. The state's most popular beaches in Malibu, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco would be closed to curb crowds. And parks in Marin County were also closed and access restricted to the Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles County. The stay at home order did allow for outdoor exercise, but social distancing has to be maintained.

A Navy hospital ship in San Diego has sailed to Los Angeles to treat non-coronavirus patients. A 1,000-bed ship, the Mercy should get there in less than a week with doctors able to perform surgery aboard the ship which contains nine operating rooms. They can also treat intensive care patients.

The Gov. Gavin Newsom says no to releasing violent inmates due to the coronavirus pandemic but has not ruled out other relief so the state's homelessness crisis doesn't get worse. An inmate and five employees in the state's prison system were positive for coronavirus, so pressure was applied apparently to release some of the state's 123,000 convicts early. The Governor says he's got no interest in releasing violent criminals from prisons and says he's not going to use the crisis as an excuse to create another crisis. Some inmate advocates and lawyers say the prisoners should be released so there's enough space for social distancing.

**Intro: Local groups are springing up across the state to produce homemade face masks for medical providers if they run out of the real thing – but some experts say the masks may do more harm than good. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says on its website that health-care providers might use homemade masks as a last resort, but Ken Zinn, with National Nurses United says the N-95 respirator is the minimum protection necessary for all health-care workers.**

:11 “They downgraded the guidance to allow hospitals to say to nurses and other front-line workers, ‘Well, just wear a scarf or a bandanna.’ This is absurd. Scarves, bandannas, surgical masks, none of them keep front-line health-care workers safe.”

**Tag: A 2015 study published in the British Journal of Medicine cautioned against cloth face masks, saying they may increase infections because they retain too much moisture and don't filter out enough particles. Some doctors have warned that they may give a false sense of security. On Monday, North America's Building Trades Unions announced that its member groups will be donating N-95 respirator masks to local hospitals around the nation.**

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**Second Cut: Shelley Blume is with Coachella Valley Mask Makers, which is handing out kits that enable people to make paper-cloth masks with a glue gun. She says the group hopes to make a thousand masks a day, then sanitize them and make them available to local hospitals.**

:10 “So these masks are not meant to replace the personal-protection equipment mask. They are to supplement medical staff who otherwise would not have a mask.”

**Tag: Hospitals are scrambling to see if they can accept the masks and figure out under what circumstances they might be used. Tenet Healthcare, which runs 13 hospitals in the state, says it will accept handmade items once the CDC issues guidelines. The California Department of Public Health on Monday declined to give guidance on homemade masks, directing people to call their local hospital to inquire.**

There's been \$100 million set aside in emergency grant funding for California counties, continuums of care, and California's 13 biggest cities for the homeless. The Governor signed a Senate Bill allocating \$100 million for the homeless population to be protected from coronavirus, getting homeless people off the street and into immediate housing. The 13 largest cities getting about \$43 million and the state's 58 counties will receive \$27 million. And the state's 44 continuums of Care will receive about \$30 million dollars. The money can be used for medical services like testing and other services, like shelters, supplies and equipment for emergency shelter operations.

Another measure to make sure coronavirus doesn't spread, even though there are no confirmed cases in Lake County... Lakeport announced the closure of all parks. Starting today until further notice, the parks are closed including Library Park and its public park, the public restrooms there and the dog park at Westside Community Park. This follows the city of Clearlake closing Redbud Park and Thompson Harbor, including the boat launch ramps, parking lot and other recreation facilities. Same in Sonoma County, parks closed after a busy weekend on beaches. The County ordered all parks in the city, county, state and federal parks closed, and parks on school grounds and beaches. But those that are paved, multiuse pathways outside park boundaries are open, plus the Joe Rodota Trail and the West County Trail. No change at Lake Mendocino.

Some nurses take to the streets in Santa Rosa because of a lack of masks as they tackle COVID-19. The nurses are employed at Kaiser Permanente and Santa Rosa Memorial. Apparently there have been multiple complaints filed against Kaiser because of a lack of masks as the pandemic spreads. Nurses at Kaiser in Santa Rosa picketed yesterday because of the new rules saying they could be fired or side-lined if they wear masks that are donated to them even by friends and neighbors. The chief nurse representative at Kaiser for union nurses says they're in danger without adequate personal protective equipment. For their part Kaiser says they're providing the right equipment and they just can't assure the integrity of protective equipment not provided by Kaiser Permanente.

Support is being offered to Redwood Credit Union customers dealing with sheltering in place. The credit union is considered essential business so they're open. They say they're following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) health and safety guidelines, with hand sanitizing stations, antimicrobial soaps, social distancing in the queues, and more cleaning at the branches and ATMs. They also have online options including a mobile app. They're also offering members 0 percent interest loans up to \$5,000 for both member businesses and individuals, 90-day payment deferrals on all consumer, credit card, mortgage and business loans, waiving all late fees over the next 90 days and the loans won't be reported as delinquent to the credit bureaus during any payment deferral period, early withdrawals will not be penalized either.

Another case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Mendocino County. 42 tests are still pending as of this morning. The Public Health Office says they're trying to release updated numbers daily and is posting them on their Facebook page. The Health Officer Noemi Doohan announced the second case at today's Board of Supervisors meeting saying it was someone living in "inland Mendocino County" now "in isolation, not considered a risk to the public and not a health care worker." She says they would not have exposed anyone with what they had been doing in their daily life and that they were exposed outside the County after direct contact with an infected person. The County is also working on a more restrictive shelter-in-place order including closing many state parking lots at parks and beaches.

The Governor says the social distancing measures put into play in the state could go on for two to three more months. The Governor says the state needs to get more hospital beds too because of the pandemic. Gov. Newsom says the state needs to increase by two-thirds the hospital bed capacity in the state so there are 50,000 beds for a predicted surge in infections. This as the president says he wants to reopen the government by Easter. The state also trying to get ahold of 1 billion medical gloves, 500 million N95 masks, and 200 million face shields for first responders to protect themselves from the virus.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer with a stronger message to residents, in alignment with the state order requiring everyone to shelter in place at home except for essential needs. Governor Newsom issued an immediate Executive Order and now the Health Officer ordered an alignment order that went into effect last night at 10, until further notice. The major changes include a stricter list of essential businesses, the closure of all parks in Mendocino County until further notice. County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan also confirmed a second case of coronavirus in the county related to high risk travel she says. She also says it doesn't indicate community spread and they're being monitored closely. She says where it was confirmed they used proper Personal Protective Equipment and handled the case in an exemplary manner.

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In Lake County, the Public Health Order is more restrictive too. The Public Health Officer limiting residents activity, travel and business functions to the most basic and essential needs. Also lodging for out of towners is now prohibited and those who want to use shared or outdoor spaces, have to adhere to social distancing of at least six feet between themselves and others while outside their homes to protect the public from the spread of the pandemic. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says violations of the order will be considered a threat to the county's health and will be enforceable by law.

Also in Lake County, all County Parks are closed for all uses except Essential Activities. Walking, hiking or running has to be with Social Distancing Requirements, gatherings and most outdoor activities are banned, they include disc golf, golf, skate park use, basketball, tennis, guided, sport, and/or recreational fishing are prohibited. All public boat ramps, docks and other waterway entryways are blocked. All playground equipment is closed as coronavirus can live on plastic and steel for up to three days.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors Chair commenting after their latest meeting that residents have to listen to the recommendations of Public Health Officials. Moke Simon goes on to say residents need to listen to the governor and abide by a Social Contract, and do what we've been asked to do, at the same time he understands how it's affecting the economy. The Board is also asking for folks to follow the Shelter in Place order, so they've put certain measures into place to prevent Rental Housing Price Gouging. District 5 Supervisor Rob Brown with fines attached of up to \$20,000. They also adopted a temporary remote work policy and have an Ad Hoc Committee figuring out which County workers are essential and cannot work remotely.

The Farmers Market in Ukiah is staying open with some operational changes. Farmers Markets across the country are considered an essential business. The Daily Journal reports the Market Manager says there's usually a limited number of vendors this time of year anyway, and that those and food booths will put some precautionary measures in place. The state Department of Public Health put new guidelines in place because of coronavirus which Ukiah is following, more space between booths for social distancing, two people must be on site for each vendor, one will bag and the other to handle the money. They're also encouraging patrons to wash produce thoroughly before eating. There will be no music, there are hand sanitizer stations, and no restrooms.

The Lake County Public Health officer Dr. Gary Pace reporting to the Board of Supervisors that more actions beyond the countywide shelter in place order are necessary to stay ahead of the coronavirus pandemic. A countywide shelter in place order went into effect last Thursday just ahead of the statewide stay at home order issued by the Gov. The countywide order's been updated since even though there are still no confirmed cases. Dr. Pace says there are 35-40 tests out locally, they were all negative. But there are many confirmed in the region. Pace says even if more tests were done and positive cases were confirmed, it wouldn't change how the county should handle the virus. He also suggested more restrictions like the county controlling social movement for a month, determine which county workers are essential, get more staff at the Public Health office and quarantine those confirmed with the virus in separate facilities that are yet to be identified; and surge planning with the county's health care facilities.

It's a unanimous decision by the Clearlake City Council to sign a letter of intent for the sale of the former Austin Resort property. Developer Bailey Building and Loans wants the two pieces of property which the city council agreed to for just over \$915,300. The City Manager says there are two properties on the lakefront land across from City Hall, one owned by the city and the other by the city redevelopment agency's successor agency. The developer looking to put up a hotel, restaurant, marina and amphitheater.

No more intake or transfer for prisoners in Calif. The Governor issuing a new executive order for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to temporarily stop intake and/or transferring of inmates and youth at 35 prisons and four youth correctional facilities. So they have to stay in custody for the next month, with a possible extension if needed. This comes under the Emergency Services Act. It also directs the Board of Parole Hearings to find a way to do their hearings online with a start date of no later than April 13th, continuing for two months. That way staff, parole board members, victims, families and their representatives, inmates, attorneys and others can still attend.

Clear Lake recreation shut down, as we've reported because apparently there were just way too many people out on waterways. The Press Democrat reports the Public Health Officer in Lake County closed Clear Lake starting yesterday, like Sonoma County, because there were crowds outside. The newspaper reports the pandemic threatens the county's economy after about 5 years of catastrophes since the 2015 wildfire season, there have been giant, historic fires and major flooding which totally took down the sea wall at Library Park in Lakeport. The Board of Supervisors chair Moke Simon says it's to protect everybody in Lake County and surrounding counties. There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Lake County, but 2 in Mendocino and nearly 40 in Sonoma. One local on the lake telling the newspaper people were out elbow to elbow on docks fishing last weekend with 8 or 9 people on boats at a time.

Since the coronavirus literally went viral, many urgency measures and ordinances have gone into effect across the state. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has unanimously passed an urgency ordinance so that evictions in Mendocino County will be put on hold until May 31st. The ordinance literally bans evictions but doesn't mean you won't eventually have to pay your rent, just that you cannot be evicted. It may be extended beyond May 31st too, depending on when the shelter in place orders across the state and locally wrap up. The barring of evictions applies to renters of residential and commercial properties by landlords and for homeowners by banks if there may be a foreclosure. The Deputy County Counsel told the Board of Supervisors yesterday that the person owing the money, would still be on the hook to pay it. The Fort Bragg City Council has the same plan in the city, but has put their ordinance on hold. During their teleconference council meeting Tuesday, the council put together an ad hoc committee on COVID-19 after several residents called council members or emailed them regarding the coronavirus. So an urgency ordinance regarding possible evictions was put on hold. The City of Willits is currently meeting on telephone conference and was supposed to ratify their emergency declaration from last week and was also considering a moratorium on evictions as are many other cities across the state including Berkeley, and the County of San Francisco which already implemented eviction moratoriums.

CalFresh reports even though walk-in eligibility and employment services are currently suspended, you can still apply for benefits through C4Yourself.com, GetCalFresh.org, and CoveredCA.com. The application websites let you fill out paperwork and upload documents. The CalWORKs and CalFresh applications are screened immediately and expedited if necessary over the phone.

No rate increases from the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District as planned. The Daily Journal reports there was a special teleconference Tuesday with the District's board of directors who voted unanimously to hold off on the planned rate increases for sewer customers. The newspaper reports due to state law utility companies are required to send rate increase notices to customers, both the Ukiah City Council and District previously approved a study on rate increases and sending notices to customers because of Proposition 218 which requires notice ahead of an increase. But at the meeting this week board members decided to reconsider the rate increase at a time when the pandemic has caused a loss to so many.

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The Lake Mendocino recreation areas are officially closed to the public. This is part of the revised shelter-in-place order by the Mendocino Public Health Officer, so now you cannot access the north or south boat ramps, or all day-use areas. Also, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says the public should not even visit the lake and stay at home. The closure has no date certain for how long it will last. The latest order says any exercise that includes walking, running, hiking and biking need to be at home somehow and that you may not use a car to get to where you want to go to recreate. If you do go with someone else, you must maintain social distancing protocols.

The state is loosening cannabis and booze restrictions, but in Mendocino County, dispensaries and recreational retailers can only operate curbside pickup or delivery options. There are some changes to essential businesses including babysitters which are considered essential and may come to the home of a family whose parents are working at an Essential Business. Those who work at animal care facilities are also included. No vacation rentals are allowed that is not considered essential to the governmental regulations on essential business. Restaurants are considered essential businesses but there's no customer self-service allowed. Employers may not allow a sick employee to work. The sale of clothing does not allow handling or trying on of a possible purchase. All recreational sites, including parks, playgrounds, beaches, waterways for recreational purposes, and congregational areas, picnic tables and canopy areas at recreational sites are closed.

Emergency housing for the homeless in Lake County is being looked at. Lake Co News reports various local agencies are working for a stop gap measure for those who are homeless and therefore more vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace told the news site, there are still no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lake County. Pace ordered Lake County residents to do what the Governor ordered, shelter in place, the homeless had been exempted as for the un-sheltered or those with no housing options. The health officer reported to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting Tuesday about his concern for the homeless at the time of the pandemic and says it could spread into the community as there's no social distancing, less places for hand washing and other ways to prevent the spread.

The Lake Area Rotary Club Association says they're raising money for senior centers dealing with coronavirus. Lake Co News reports the association had been a major fundraiser for fire recovery in Lake County, but changed course yesterday, with a new mission for emergency relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization says its Fire Relief Fund will donate \$40,000 to the four senior centers in Lake County who have lost income from their thrift stores because of the virus, plus they're seeing more of a demand for home-delivered meals from Meals on Wheels.

More tests are being conducted in the state for coronavirus. The State Department of Public Health reports the amount of tests have more than doubled, yesterday saying almost 67,000 tests were done. Commercial and private labs along with the state's 22 labs and county health labs are all currently testing. About 18,300 tests came back and another 48,600 are pending. When more tests are done, more cases arise. Lake Co News reports there were 3,185 confirmed cases in Calif. and 67 deaths because of COVID-19 in California. Dr. Gary Pace, the public health officer in Lake County says there's been 35 tests have come back negative, and 15 to 20 more are still pending.

Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation donating four more ventilators at Mendocino Coast District Hospital as they expect critical needs patients. The \$165,000 to also cover the cost of other equipment to run the ventilators. The healthcare foundation says the hospital CEO says the funding will save lives. They report spending several weeks assessing the Mendocino coastal healthcare community's most pressing needs and have reached out to local healthcare organizations, clinics, and practitioners about the pandemic. The foundation says its starting a special fund to protect public health and help those affected by the disease. They've got more money to provide and are asking also for donations to help cover community healthcare to buy more masks and Personal Protective Equipment, supplies like hand sanitizer, wipes, and other products to clean and protect surfaces from contamination and thermometers and assessment equipment.

Some smaller shops in Ukiah want the community to know they're also delivering groceries like the larger chains. Forks Ranch Market says they can deliver if you please pay for groceries over the phone with a credit card. They're looking to stay in the valley with their deliveries. They're also offering curbside pickup. Redwood Valley Market says they're also delivering to customers but only for special circumstances like those who have to self-isolate because they are sick or elderly. Westside Renaissance Market is also offering delivery. Raleys is offering the same. Safeway and Costco are also doing curbside pickup.

Crab fishing season in Humboldt County is essentially done. The president of the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing association says the entire seafood industry has been devastated by coronavirus. The crabbing season is usually slower in March anyway, but apparently it's much lower than ever before beginning with a total stoppage of China accepting live crabs. Then the domestic market took a hit as restaurants started closing. It comes after terrible crabbing seasons including last year when the season prematurely closed because of whale entanglements off the California coast.

No cell phone service to call for help has led to the destruction of a home by fire in a remote location in Fort Bragg. The Fire Chief says they went out to the two bedroom home Tuesday morning, finding flames "pouring out of every window and the front door". The Chief says they couldn't save the home after nobody there could get inside to call from a landline and there was no cell service on the inside earlier. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. But the chief says he thinks it probably started in the chimney. Nobody was home at the time. Someone was staying there but were not there when the fire broke out.



In Mendocino County, new measures at a couple local markets to serve seniors. Harvest Market in Fort Bragg and Harvest Market at Mendosa's in Mendocino are offering senior hours, they say they will have freshly-sanitized carts, handwashing stations and blue tape on the ground in front of registers and counters to remind you to follow six-foot distancing between others for social distancing recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. The elderly and immunocompromised can shop between the hours of 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. in Fort Bragg and in Mendocino, the same group can hit the market between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. They also have signs up inside and outside the store to remind people not to enter if they feel sick, to maintain social distancing and leave reusable bags at home. You will also notice glass in front of registers as a barrier between the cashier and customer. There is also a handwashing station outside to encourage you to wash before entering and when you leave.

Plans being worked out for Lake County employees to figure out who is essential and nonessential, plus new paid leave and remote work options. The Record Bee reports employees of the county will find out if they can get emergency paid sick leave, as part of new federal legislation, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act which could cover up to three months leave for county workers who need to care for a family member. The Lake County Administrative Officer says accrued sick leave can be used for the first two weeks of leave and the rest has to be paid by the county. She also says other counties are even offering more, and they're discussing that possibility.

Some restrictions on cannabis dispensaries and restaurants easing due to the pandemic. Marijuana retailers are being classified as essential so they can stay open during the coronavirus crisis. But as with all other essential services, there are social-distancing orders. Cannabis shops have been given waivers so clients can buy it from their cars and have it delivered to their homes without a signature required so they don't have to knock on your door. Customers will instead text a picture of their state identification to the dispensary. There's been reports of long lines outside dispensaries with some reporting their sales are surging.

Some local seamstresses and sewers are making face masks or repairing masks as there's a massive shortage across the country. They don't protect as well as professional masks according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and should only be used with caution. But the site lists bandanas and scarves as last-resort options for health care providers. In Chico a group of volunteers at Enloe Medical Center have been sewing like crazy. They have 400 volunteers who've been told to stop their usual workloads because of the virus.

An emergency meeting's been called of the Lake County Board of Supervisors regarding the coronavirus. It comes after the Governor's executive order on sheltering at home. The State Public Health Officer also recently distributed a list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" who have to keep working even though there's a Shelter-In-Place across the state. The Board of Supervisors can define who they feel are "critical government workers." An Ad Hoc Committee was created for that at the meeting earlier this week and that will be one of the topics of tomorrow's emergency meeting. The Chair of the Board says they're working with County leaders to come up with the list which has been a challenge. The other matters to be discussed cannot wait until next Tuesday's Board meeting. The meeting is online tomorrow at 3pm. You can attend by emailing [PublicComment@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@lakecountyca.gov), to schedule Zoom Meeting access

There are still no confirmed cases in Lake County. The County is not stating how long the shelter in place situation will go on, but the County says in China it took about a month for the viral activity to start dropping, they also took more stringent measures than we have in the states. Testing has been a challenge according to the Public Health Office, in Lake County and throughout the region. The office is starting to research places to get a hold of supplies too. The Public Health Officer says even though we have no cases and there's a lack of tests, it doesn't change the preparations needed, stay home and keep social distancing. He says it's possible the virus will arrive in the coming weeks (if it hasn't already), and that delays are helpful for preparations, and buy time to get needed supplies.

Evictions in Mendocino County get a temporary ban for those who cannot pay their rent due to the coronavirus. The Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an Executive Order a couple weeks ago prohibiting a landlord from evicting tenants for 30 days after a proclamation or declaration of emergency and renting to someone else for more money. Now the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an Urgency Ordinance for a temporary prohibition on evictions during the pandemic. There's a time limit on the ordinance, but it can be extended. The same ordinance also helps those who own their home so they don't go into foreclosure. You will eventually have to pay though, but there's no language on possible interest, late fees, and penalties. The ordinance only applies to unincorporated areas of

03/27/20 Mendocino County.

The Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace has some new thoughts on preparation for COVID-19's eventual entry into Lake County. There are still no confirmed cases in the County, but Dr. Pace says it will probably be here in the coming weeks, or it already is. Dr. Pace is asking for more to be done to prevent a massive outbreak because of the county's limited healthcare system. The Record Bee reports Dr. Pace saying he's not sure there will be more restriction, but there needs to be more sacrifice of personal needs for the good of the community. He's assigned someone in his office to start to research supply chains and a way to get more tests to the area.

A couple of families in Ukiah have lost their home after a fire breaks out. The fire Wednesday night before midnight looks to have started in a furnace closet in the apartment building. Ukiah Valley Fire on the scene and Mendocino Deputies and police officers from Ukiah went door to door to evacuate residents. The fire had spread to the attic of the building after the fire started in the second story apartment. The five other families living in the building were able to stay.

An update for the Board of Supervisors in Mendocino County by the Public Health Officer on the Shelter-in-Place Order. Dr. Noemi Doohan and the Deputy Health Officer Jen Banks delivered information to the board with the Sheriff Matt Kendall and Lt. Shannon Barney, the head of the county's Emergency Operations Center. County CEO Carmel Angelo is the incident manager for the emergency event and Dr. Jim Flaherty, a recently appointed deputy health officer. Doohan stressing how serious the situation is and there are some in the community not following the shelter in place order. She says the Bay Area had an explosion of cases and there are more and more cases closer to the region. She says there's been no peak in cases here or problems with equipment in hospitals locally, but if we don't take serious efforts of social distancing and shelter in place, seriously, it'll happen. Supervisor McCowan chimed in saying if we don't take it seriously, 30,000 to 40,000 people could contract the virus in Mendocino County and 3,000 would need hospitalization. The numbers were confirmed by Dr. Doohan.

The new Deputy Health Officer Dr. James Flaherty gave an update yesterday... no change in the numbers.

**Testing Numbers – Updated Daily by 8pm**

Total Tests Taken: 170

Total Positives: 2

Total Negatives: 131

Total Pending: 37

No decisions will be made on a possible Hemp Cultivation Pilot Program until after the coronavirus pandemic. The program for temporary cultivation and to see if it's compatible with cannabis cultivation and there's no cross-pollination. It would also look to have hemp only grown from female cloned plants, male hemp plants would not be allowed and that cultivation sites have to be no less than 10 acres and located in a zoning district. There's a ban on hemp now until next February even though Hemp is legal at the state and federal level. No date for a vote was given at Tuesday's meeting with some supervisors saying there were more pressing issues to consider at this time.

Humboldt County has seen a spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases. Right now there are 12 cases after just having five on Tuesday. Some of the new cases were in a group who had traveled. So a case popped up in a household contact. The Humboldt County Health Officer reminding that travel increases the risk and says it's everyone's responsibility to cancel non-essential travel and to heed the shelter in place orders. The new cases are in isolation and an investigation underway to see who else may have been in contact with the confirmed cases.

Because of the statewide shelter in place order, the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region is closing recreation facilities at the statewide National Forests. The closures for developed recreation facilities until at least April 30th to try to promote social distancing and not allow groups of people to come together at the recreation sites. So they're closed to the public but the trail system is open with hiking and walking outdoors allowed. But adhering to social distancing. Forest Service asking the public to be cautious and ask yourself if your personal participation in outdoor recreation poses an unnecessary risk to others.

Police in Fort Bragg observing a moment of silence for the sixth anniversary of one of their deputies killed in the line of duty. Yesterday the department stopped their duties to remember fellow deputy, Ricky DelFiorentino who was killed just before noon on March 26th 2014, ambushed by a man on a crime spree from Oregon to Fort Bragg. The Interim Police Chief John Naulty also on the scene of the incident and heard the gunfire and stopped the suspect, shooting him to death. DelFiorentino's death was the first of a Mendocino County deputy since April 1995, when Deputy Bob Davis died in Covelo during a shootout. Former Sheriff Tom Allman said there were only five fatal shootings of deputies in the county since 1850.

Mayors in Southern and Northern Calif. are warning their residents to pay attention to the shelter in place orders. There are more than 3,000 cases in Calif, the 4th highest behind New York, New Jersey and Washington. The mayor of San Francisco warning people to stay inside or the city could see a surge like New York City. She says if people continue hanging out in groups and interacting, the spread of the virus could increase and there won't be enough hospital beds, ICU units or ventilators to support those who will need them. The Mayor of New York has had the same warning for his residents. The Calif. Health and Human Services Agency says the number of Calif. cases is doubling every three to four days comparable to New York.

Several million N95 masks are being delivered to healthcare workers in Calif. and New York. 39 million masks are being delivered to the 2 states, but not beyond. The Service Employees International Union says they want the masks to be widely distributed, but there are not enough, hospitals in Arizona didn't respond to an offer of 2 million masks though. The union's members work across Calif. They say they found there were more suppliers too who could produce 20 million more masks a week and millions of face shields. Those buying the masks include the State of Calif., Greater New York Hospital Association, Dignity Health, Kaiser Permanente, Stanford Health Care, Sutter Health, Los Angeles County, Riverside County and Santa Clara County.

Retired state workers and transferred workers are being utilized to process the more than one million unemployment claims that have come in after massive job losses related to the pandemic. Some of the first cases hit Calif after cruise ships with sick people docked and others traveled from the place where it all started, Wuhan, China. But thankfully the numbers have yet to explode like in New York. They are growing quickly here though, and about 30% of the country's unemployment claims are in Calif. Thousands of businesses are also closed. The governor reported more than a million people filed for unemployment since March 13th. The unemployment dept. says they're working as fast as they can to handle the claims. The governor has also said there will soon be hotel rooms set up to help with patient loads.

Two men on a cruise ship that had coronavirus aboard have died. The men were on the Grand Princess, the ship that went from San Francisco to Hawaii in February. Federal officials say less than half of the passengers aboard were ever tested for the virus. They were both in their 60's. One of them taken from the ship to a hospital March 9th, after the ship docked in Oakland. The ship stayed there a few days as passengers disembarked and were taken to quarantine. The other man was one of those taken to Travis Air Force Base, then after he got symptoms he was taken to a hospital. One of them died last Saturday, the other on Monday. There were 3,500 passengers and crew from 54 countries aboard the ship. The ship infected after a man from Northern California got sick on a previous voyage on the same ship. Only 1,100 of the 2,400 passengers were tested, some declined tests. 103 of the tests were positive and 699 were negative, the rest are still pending.

Nine cases of Covid-19 in Napa County. The Public Health Dept. reports the latest patient had a relationship with someone else who had been diagnosed with the illness. The health department is investigating any other contacts with this person. This comes after the 8th case announced last Thursday. That person had a relationship with a case in Southern Calif. Napa hadn't had any cases until about a week and a half ago when 2 cases were reported. The more cases that are confirmed are due to more testing. The nine includes four people in Napa, three in St. Helena and one each in American Canyon and Calistoga. At the same time Napa Valley College announced they will continue online thru June 1st.

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Legislators are imploring Californians to stay at home as those who've died from coronavirus in the state reaches more than 100. The Gov. said those hospitalized was at more than 1,000 and there were more than 400 people in the ICU as of Saturday. Gov. Newsom says the numbers are tame compared to NY, but that could change if folks stop practicing physical distancing and go back to things as they were before. The announcement also that 12 elderly residents at a nursing facility Yucaipa had all tested positive for COVID-19. There have been reports of people on beaches and hiking so local governments have ordered beaches and trails to close.

Reports of a 4th case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says the patient is in inland Mendocino County who is thought to have found themselves in contact with someone else who had the virus through travel and not through community spread. They are said to be in stable condition, did not need to be hospitalized, and were in isolation at home and the public health office is monitoring them. Dr. Doohan says they pose no risk to the public. She also says the first person who got it in the County is recovered but was still in isolation for 14 days since diagnosis. This latest case, was identified in the Public Health Lab with a healthcare partner due to a lack test kits locally.

Since there are so many homeless people in the County, the Ukiah City Manager says it's a crucial issue that puts the rest of the community at risk. City Manager Sage Sangiacomo reportedly emailed County staff for an update on plans for shelters for housing or sheltering of transients to try to curb any potential spread of coronavirus. The Daily Journal reports a representative of the Emergency Operations Center says they recognize there's an increased risk for the homeless. The newspaper reports there may be more homeless currently due to changes of intake and release at jails. Sangiacomo says a possible shelter site could be at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds.

More meals for kids in the Ukiah Unified School District. The District is distributing meals this week adding dinner for five days. And they're giving a sixth day of meals for Spring Break days. There is no longer daily meal delivery and pickup, so you have to go to the pick up site either today or Friday. Visit <http://www.uusd.net> for locations and times.

If we can do anything to support you, please let us know. Call (707) 472-5003, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with questions. Si habla español, llame al (707) 472-5003.

The Hope Harbor Warming Center has moved and is now located in the old Record Bee building in Lakeport on S. Main St. The move is because of regulations by the CDC on COVID-19 which says cots for those sleeping there have to be at least six-feet apart. The building is leased through April 11th and will stay open longer too. The program coordinator says they're open 24/7 instead of 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. They will have fewer volunteers there because of health concerns and some needing to self-isolate themselves. Right now they have 6 people working there instead of the usual 10-30 volunteers. The director of the center says the move to the old Record Bee building allows them to have overnight guests following the CDC protocols.

Two minimum security inmates on the run from a Humboldt County jail. During inmate count Friday night at the Eel River Conservation Camp, officials found 29 year old inmate Derek Barnett and 28 year old Noah Wilson were not in their bunks. A search was done of the camp buildings and grounds. Barnett was assigned to be a porter and Wilson was a cook at the camp where they hold about 120 minimum custody inmates. The Correctional Department's Office of Correctional Safety, Cal Fire, the California Highway Patrol and local police are helping to try to find the men. Anyone who sees them is asked to call 911 or local police.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors had a virtual meeting to talk about the COVID-19 shelter in place order. Lake Co News reports the meeting lasted about an hour with an Ad Hoc Committee that had been assigned to the task of deciding what and was not essential reporting in. Community members had also been calling Board members concerned about new rules, but they only apply to County workers. The County Administrative Officer says the committee mostly focused on a couple of things, the safety of employees and following the countywide shelter in place order. They were focused too on those with critical duties that involved County operations or maintaining critical infrastructure. So general office workers who do clerical or support were considered by the committee to be nonessential and some could work remotely with their department heads deciding. The committee would work with the department heads through April 14th. The Sheriff was there too and said 7 percent of his agency was nonessential, and half would be working remotely. The Lake County Courthouse was also closed for non-essential gatherings.

The Lake County Public Health Officer is having a town hall. Dr. Gary Pace looking for questions from the public so the community can make the best choices possible. Tomorrow night at 6, the Virtual Town Hall will take place where updates will also be given. There will be panelists there at the meeting too. It's on Facebook Live, but if you're not on Facebook you can get the town hall on public TV channel 8, or at the County's website.

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

The top emergency official in Sonoma County being called out for taking a trip to the beach as there are strict shelter in place orders that had closed parks and beaches to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The Press Democrat reports the director of Emergency Management, Chris Godley, asking for mercy from the public after being spotted on the coast in a post on Facebook. The post said, "road tripping up the coast. Beautiful drive and nice views. Family beach time together. Grateful for fresh air and the ocean". But about a week ago after packed beaches and park trails were noted the Public Health Officer said trips to the beach were a problem. She ordered all parks, including state parks and beaches closed. Godley says it was not what he wanted to model for the community.

Temporary closure for parking lots to the state's 280 parks to try to help slow the spread of coronavirus. There were a bunch of people out at parks again, so vehicle access was closed off to try to help slow COVID-19 for recreationalists and others. A reminder to not congregate in parks, to stay home if you're sick, if you do go outdoors, to do it near your home and only go with people in your immediate family who you live with or others in the household. And when you do go out to practice physical distancing. State parks officials are monitoring parks and following the Governor's orders closely. They also go on to say if safety measures don't work, then stricter measures could be put in place, like totally closing trails, their bathrooms and other amenities.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting virtually again. The meeting tomorrow will be to discuss matters related to the county's response to COVID-19. There are still no confirmed cases in the County. Members of the public are asked to submit their comments over email at [PublicComment@lakecountycalifornia.gov](mailto:PublicComment@lakecountycalifornia.gov) and make sure you note the agenda item number you're interested in. This is a special meeting with the Public Health Officer addressing the Board. And Supervisor Rob Brown will ask for a letter to be sent to the Gov. Gavin Newsom to suspend legislation introduced or enacted the last two years that could be viewed as detrimental to private enterprise jobs. This because of impacts from COVID-19. They will also consider budget changes and a change to their yearly calendar.

Due to the potential spread of coronavirus, the Lake County Sheriff's Office has announced no more visitors at the Lake County Jail. There are no suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Lake County Jail, but in an abundance of caution, there will be nobody from the public admitted into the lobby of the jail to drop off money orders for inmates, they can only be sent by mail now. They are continuing the commissary program and money orders sent by mail will be credited to the inmate's account. They're not accepting any cash. Money orders need the recipients name, the sender's name, their address and be signed by the sender. The Sheriff's office says they look forward to resuming normal operations as soon as they can do it safely.

The Ukiah Food Bank says they're staying open as long as possible. The director says it's their goal and as of now, they don't anticipate closing. The food bank in Ukiah is changing the way they hand out items though. They've put their Saturday distribution on hold, want clients to wash their hands, and are only allowing one person in at a time. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they will have curbside pickup for seniors or someone can come retrieve their items for them so they don't have to leave home. The food bank say there's been a downturn in the amount of donations they've received and they've seen less seniors getting food. The director says they're not seeing any new faces so far, but that could change on a dime. And apparently some food banks in Arizona have been asking Governor Newsom's office for help restocking. And the gov. sent the National Guard to help struggling food banks across the state.

The Gov. says he thinks the state will be able to make enough ventilators to meet how many will be needed. The Governor spoke over the weekend after touring an energy company in San Jose. The company is refurbishing outdated ventilators. Newsom did say however that the state may need to expand the capacity if people do not follow the guidelines for social distancing and the crisis gets worse. Bloom Energy is refurbishing the machines. The CEO says a week ago they knew nothing about ventilators but says now they understand them. In one day the refurbished 24 ventilators, then the next 80, the following day 120 of them. Calif. has more than 4,000 ventilators at the ready currently, but the Governor says we need 10,000.

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The Governor's trying to get inactive, retired and even student medical staffers to join the new California Health Corps so there's more help for a potential surge in cases of coronavirus. The state wants those with active licenses to join the fight against the pandemic.

Phone systems down in Laytonville for a time causing an issue for 911 service. Mobile phones seem to be able to get through but landlines do not. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says the Laytonville Firehouse was open for walk-in reports of emergencies and calls were also going thru to the Sheriff's office. A nixle alert went out of the landline outage in Laytonville. Callers were getting a recorded, "circuits are busy" when using a land line to call 911. Last night Patrol Deputies were being sent to Laytonville for high visibility patrols.

Some realtors may be able to go back to work in some capacity. Residential real estate sales were added to the list of essential services by the Federal Government. But some realtors in Southern California were reportedly concerned about health risks associated with the sales process of bringing strange people into strangers homes. There had been a sales ban, so now some homes that were in escrow or in contract may be completed. The California Association of Realtors says selling is possible with strict limits.

Temporary emergency orders have been put into place in Mendocino County for courts. The DA has confirmed the state Judicial Council unanimously extended directives for after the state of emergency is lifted. They include extending the 10-day period for holding a preliminary hearing and the defendant's right of release to 30 court days, extending the amount of time between when a defendant is charged with a felony and be taken in front of a judicial officer from 48 hours to no more than 7 days, also extend the holding time to more than 30 days and bringing a case to trail also more than 30 days. And courts are encouraged to use teleconferencing, remote appearances, reporting and interpreting whenever possible. This is so essential court services continue while the pandemic continues.

There are still four confirmed cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County. The Public Health Dept. says it seems they are all travel-related and not from community spread. None of them led the person to go into the hospital and they were able to isolate at home. One of them has fully recovered and the other three are being monitored by the Public Health Dept. following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention home isolation guidance. The Health Officer also says the healthcare facilities where each case were diagnosed were using the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and handled the cases in a proper manner.



There are two grants available by Lake County Continuum of Care from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. They are nearly identical in their amounts, one for \$118,568 for Rapid Rehousing Programs only, and the other for \$118,567 also for Rapid Rehousing Programs. Those applying should be a nonprofit or government agency working with the homeless, or those at risk of losing their shelter.

<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/esg.shtml>

A reminder from the City of Willits after the declared local state of emergency due to coronavirus to follow the shelter in place order. They remind only essential businesses should be open at this time. The City reminds there are four cases in Mendocino County. All of the City facilities and departments are closed to the public, but there are City staffers off site working from home or isolated, if possible. It includes City Hall, the Skate Park, the Dog Park, and the Community Center. They want to also remind you to use the City's website and dropbox and US mail for payments and services.

The police chief in Santa Rosa says they have two more employees who tested positive for coronavirus. There are now eight employees with the virus. 107 employees have been tested for COVID-19 to date. Chief Rainer Navarro says it's critical to flatten the curve of the virus and prevent further spread. He says if you have to go shopping, do it quickly, Get In & Get Out get only the essentials, food, medications, or supplies to make essential home repairs. And follow the Shelter in Place order because the police department will enforce it if necessary.

Following the Shelter-in-Place order, Mendocino County's Public Health Dept. has extended the notice until further notice so the Office of Education and local public school districts have extended or modified the remote learning status thru at least May 1st. All school facilities will stay closed, then if the situation changes, local education leaders will reassess and decide if May 1st needs to be extended further. As of this moment, high school graduation dates remain in place countywide. The Schools Superintendent says she's proud of teachers and administrators who've altered the way they're providing instruction and deeply appreciates staffers who are keeping students fed and facilities disinfected.

Mendocino County Health Clinic Health Centers reminding they're providing essential healthcare for residents in Ukiah, Willits and Lakeport as they try to slow and stop the spread of coronavirus. The Acting CEO says they're adapting the way they care for people so they can get the services they need. They're working with Lake and Mendocino County Public Health and other local healthcare providers, replacing in person visits with phone consults as often as possible. The Chief Medical Officer says they're minimizing staff and patient exposure by continually disinfecting their health centers and doing remote care when they can.

For the latest announcements from Public Health, visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus) or [www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Government/PressReleases](http://www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Government/PressReleases).

To contact MCHC for an appointment, call 707-468-1010. For more information about MCHC services, visit [www.mchcinc.org](http://www.mchcinc.org).

A new initiative has started in Calif. to recruit retired medical professionals with active licenses or medical students to get on the front line and help fight the spread of COVID-19. The Governor announced the Health Corp where they're looking for doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, behavioral health scientists, pharmacists, EMTs, medical and administrative assistants, and certified nursing assistants. He also signed an executive order so that health care facilities could bring in 50,000 more hospital beds for COVID-19 patients. The Governor made the announcement as hospitalizations doubled over four days and the amount of people moved into intensive care tripled. He also says Facebook is pledging several million dollars to help with the cost of childcare and transportation for the Healthcorp workers.

A special board meeting has been called of the Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD) Board of Trustees. The meeting tomorrow afternoon to discuss surplus properties in Hopland and Redwood Valley with updates from realtors the District is working with for the old school sites. The Governor's Emergency Executive Order outlined that Board of Education meetings could go on, but they have to be over video conference or teleconferencing until further notice. You can catch the board meeting on the District's YouTube channel.

A man in Clearlake has been arrested in connection to two armed robberies this month. Police say it was 25 year old man who they say was responsible for two armed robberies earlier this month. Robert Shurtlif who was responsible for two March 17th heists, one at J&L Market on Old Highway 53, and a Valero Gas Station on Lakeshore Drive. They say money and merchandise were stolen during the robberies and that video surveillance and witnesses described the perpetrator as wearing a mask, hat and hoodie. They also say he used a handgun during the capers. Fliers went out around town in the hopes to identify the man and to alert other local businesses about him. They rounded up enough tips and arrested Shurtlif on Saturday during a traffic stop. He apparently confessed to police at that time.

If you don't comply with stay at home orders in Lakeport you could get a ticket. The city of Lakeport Office of Emergency Services issuing an Executive Order whereby administrative citations could be distributed for violating the shelter in place orders from the Lake County Public Health officer and governor. City officials say those who don't comply are violating the Municipal Code and will be considered a public nuisance. The city put out a statement yesterday saying it prefers voluntary compliance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and don't necessarily want to hand out tickets but say if the need arises, the police department now has more flexibility with enforcement of the local and state orders.

Lake County Superior Court is continuing limited operations thru the beginning of May. There was a two week closure put into effect March 18th that's been extended to April 10th. The California Chief Justice had issued an order last week suspending all trials in Calif. for 60 days as the pandemic escalated. Officials in the local court say social distancing directives and limits on gatherings looks to be staying in place for some time. The statutory time frames have been extended for filing court documents and conducting any judicial business from April 2nd to May 1st. For more info: [www.lake.courts.ca.gov](http://www.lake.courts.ca.gov).

Two inmates that escaped the Eel River Conservation Camp have been caught. Special Agents from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation found and arrested 29-year-old Derek Barnett coming out of an apartment building in Ukiah and Harley Colvard who was with him. Colvard was found to have outstanding felony warrants, plus he was charged with aiding and abetting the escape of inmates and harboring a fugitive. They then found more info to lead them to the other inmate who took off from the camp, 28-year-old Noah Wilson. He was found inside a car during a traffic stop and was arrested with the help of cops in Rancho Cucamonga. The pair went missing last Friday.

A man in Willits has been arrested after a call to someone who fell, but hospital staffers say it's a suspicious fall. Sheriff's Deputies went to the Emergency Room at Howard memorial and found the 49 year old female victim who had major head injuries which left her unconscious and unable to speak. They apparently knew her from previous visits about domestic violence. The deputies went to the woman's home and found 21 year old Tavion Johnson and found there had been a violent encounter between Johnson and the victim, his wife. He was arrested for felony domestic violence, violation of a domestic violence criminal protective order, violation of probation and causing great bodily injury to the victim during an act of domestic violence. He's being held without bail. The victim was taken to a different hospital for care due to injuries received during the violent encounter with her husband.

Mendocino County Tax Collectors are not changing the deadline date for the second installment of property taxes because it's established by the state. And the County says the April 10th date is counted on to pay for critical County services, like emergency responders, public health, schools and other financial obligations. And because of the pandemic the County Administration Building is closed, so all taxes, assessments, penalties, fines or fees must be sent thru the mail, online or by phone. There's also a drop box in front of the County Administration Building. They also do not accept cash, only money orders or cashiers checks.