

KWNE FFC Reports Q2, 2021

04/01/21

Friends of the Eel River says they've won against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission planning to put doors on a fish ladder at Cape Horn Dam. The group says it's just one small step in their fight to fix all the harm done by Pacific Gas & Electric's two Potter Valley Project dams which are harming Eel River salmon and steelhead. They say they had to threaten a lawsuit against the federal agency which conceded it had approved the operation for new doors improperly by not checking first with the Endangered Species Act to be sure the listed species wouldn't be further harmed and pushed towards extinction.

A Stage 3 Drought has been declared by the Mendocino City Community Services District board. At the board meeting Monday, the district reported it had only recorded about 20.5 inches of rain this year so far. That they say, is the second-lowest recorded total in the past century. So this means a mandatory 20% reduction in water use, special irrigation times and an irrigation audit for landscape maintenance, no car washing, or use a bucket if you must, no refilling of fountains or ponds unless you use recycled water, you may not refill hot tubs or swimming pools, we've been here before, drinking water served at restaurants upon request only, recommended use of paper plates at restaurants to avoid dishwashing, a temporary moratorium on new groundwater extraction permits for new development and no aquifer pump tests. There are fines for offenders.

[The California Office of Emergency Services and Cal Recycle are assessing and removing debris](#)

The fire in Clearlake Oaks that killed 3 people on Monday is still a mystery. Police and Fire officials still trying to figure out how the fire in Clearlake Oaks started. Northshore Fire is working with the Sheriff's dept. to get to the bottom of it. The names of the 2 men and one woman who died have not been released, but they're believed to be from the same family. Apparently autopsies are being done this week, but it could take several more weeks for positive identification. The firefighting team was met with heavy smoke and fire, and partial building collapse. The report of the fire also said there were three people trapped inside. Firefighters had a limited water supply, but were able to contain the fire to the one home.

A new study says about 25% of adults in the North Bay don't want to get the coronavirus vaccine. The same study showed those against receiving the vaccination were higher in the North Bay than any other part of the nine county Bay Area. The Bay Area Council survey showed around 23% of respondents in Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Solano called themselves "vaccine hesitant". Described as probably or definitely not getting the shots. The survey was of 1,000 registered voters in nine Bay Area counties. It showed 31% of Republicans were hesitant to get vaccinated, compared to 7% of Democrats.

Another 1,400 firefighters are being hired in Calif. ahead of what could be another terrible wildfire season. The Gov. made the announcement Tuesday using his emergency authority to spend nearly \$81 million dollars to hire 1,399 firefighters for CalFire. The state generally depends on the amount of snow it gets each winter for a lot of its water, but this year we were at only 15 inches, or 54% of average for April 1st, when the state's snowpack is supposed to be the deepest. Last year was pretty close to the same, and 4 million acres were blackened by a historic season, destroying over 4% of the state's land, tearing down almost 10,500 buildings and killing 33 people.

The state is looking to put down some mountain lions to save hundreds of bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada. There are about 600 Sierra Nevada bighorns in the wild, which are considered an endangered species. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering culling the lions after they already gathered and relocated them more than 100 miles away from the sheep. But they say they keep eating the animals, reappearing and eating more. The state agency says one mountain lion who had eaten at least nine sheep came right back to where it was removed. Then it did it again, from 200 miles away.

A special contest is being held by the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers. The pandemic caused the Lighthouse Keepers to cancel a planned 150th Anniversary celebration. The first Tower was completed in April 1870 and first lit May 1st of that year. So now the Lighthouse Keepers want to keep the tradition going inviting writers to submit a piece about the light station. There are four categories, poetry, short stories, flash fiction and a "Dear Lighthouse" essay. The winning and favorite entries will be published in the Independent Coast Observer.

Writers can submit as many different works in as many categories as they like through snail mail or email at palight@gmail.com, the deadline is tomorrow, April 2, 2021.

For more information, visit pointarenalighthouse.com/150th-1-anniversary-writers-invitation.

To support sexual assault survivors the city of Lakeport and the Lakeport Police Department working with the Lake Family Resource Center. So, a proclamation to Lake Family Resource Center designates April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. All streetlights downtown are being lit teal through the month, starting today. Also, all Lakeport Police cars and officer uniforms will feature a teal ribbon through the month. The public is also encouraged to wear jeans for their uniform pants from Friday, April 23rd, through Friday, April 30th.

There's an opening on the First 5 Lake County Commission. The vacancy for an at-large member. They say diversity and equitable representation is important so they're specifically seeking applicants who live or work in District 2, which is most of the City of Clearlake and areas east. Applications are being accepted online until 5 p.m. Friday, April 16th. They meet each fourth Wednesday of the month alternating between Lakeport and Lower Lake. They're still doing Zoom meetings though due to the pandemic.

For more information and to see if you are qualified to apply, please contact First 5 Lake at (707) 263-6169, or visit our website to learn more and fill out an application www.firstfivelake.org.

A couple of Arson fires have been reported in Ukiah. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reports going out to the two fires over five days. The latest one, like many others in the past, was near the railroad tracks behind Daniel Steel and Machine on Brush Street. The Fire Authority Battalion Chief says they got a report of a dumpster fire yesterday early morning. Police and Deputies were there too as it looked like a homeless encampment was also set up near the dumpster. The fire was quickly doused. The second fire was a cart on fire on South Main Street near Safeway Saturday night. A 46-year old man was arrested for misdemeanor reckless burning. He was cited and released.

Looking for something to do this weekend? The Redwood Valley Grange is having their yearly Easter Bake Sale Saturday. It's been nearly a half century the Grange has been putting on the bake sale. It usually happens in front of the Redwood Valley Store. It's inside the Grange Hall this year, and they say they'll be carefully COVID- 19 compliant from 11 am – 2 pm, April 3rd. There will be loads of baked items at the event and they're doing an outdoor Free Puzzle Exchange and Grab & Go Craft Bags for children over 3. Apparently jigsaw puzzles have become quite popular during the pandemic so the Grange has been sponsoring these puzzle exchanges the last year.

For more information: <http://www.RedwoodValleyGrange.com> or Facebook: Redwood Valley Gr

The President has a planned infrastructure bill with billions in it to prioritize broadband expansion. Reports say it's a top goal, with \$100bn to bring affordable internet to "all Americans" by 2029. The White House put out a fact sheet yesterday afternoon which says they hope to reach "100% high-speed broadband coverage" across the US and will prioritize broadband networks "owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and cooperatives" instead of big tech firms. The administration says it became clear during the pandemic with many Americans forced to work and learn from home, there were disparities between Americans with and without reliable access to internet, calling it "a stark digital divide".

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has stopped being shipped over quality issues. The state of California was supposed to get 572,700 doses for administration next week, which we will still get. But the Calif. Dept. of Health reports they're investigating the halting of manufacturing and what impact it will have on the state. The agency spokesperson says "maintaining the highest standards during vaccine production to ensure safe and effective vaccines is a paramount concern." Around 15 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine were reportedly tainted due to quality-control problems at a Baltimore manufacturing plant where it mixed with another manufacturers vaccine.

There are graphic videos posted online of a beating involving officers with the Ukiah Police Department – after a man with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder ripped off his clothes. The family of Gerardo Magdaleno says – this isn't the first time he's been beaten by officers – last time a police dog also getting involved. A police report says he'd taken LSD that morning, family members saying he'd run out of the medication he needs – and that he'll use non-prescription drugs when his regular meds run out. Magdaleno is homeless – and it's not clear whether he's in a hospital or in the county jail – Police aren't commenting on the situation.

04/02/21

Sheet1

If you're hoping to get vaccinated for the coronavirus – there are a few clinics happening this weekend. Caspar has a vaccination event scheduled to start at 11 today – The Mendocino Coast Clinics hosting another vaccination event starting at noon – running until 5 today – while Fort Bragg has a clinic scheduled for tomorrow from noon to 5.

The Department of education is doing everything they can to get kids back in the classrooms throughout the state. The State Superintendent of schools says there's money set aside so schools can upgrade their heating and cooling systems to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. They're also doing as much testing as they can – and that's helping bring students back. The superintendent, Tony Thurmond, saying they're in constant communication with schools and leaders about how to stay open safely.

A café in Mendocino that had been shut down for not complying with public health guidelines is offering half off if you don't wear a mask inside. Fiddleheads Café closed last June for refusing to have workers wear masks and requiring patrons to do the same. Now he has a sign up outside that says "Throw Your Mask(s) in our trash bin and receive 50% off your order." Mendo Fever dot com reports the county's Code Enforcement supervisor says they've been getting complaints about the place and they're investigating. Right now Mendocino County Health orders you wear a mask when around others outside of your own household. Last year the owner started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to hire a lawyer to fight the county's pandemic protocols. The restaurant had received two violation notices with fines. No word how much, or if the owner paid.

A man from Rio Dell has been arrested after police in Eureka were tipped about a possible sex abuse case. Police and Sheriff's Deputies investigated 41 year old Jorge Alcazar for the last month for the ongoing abuse of a child under the age of 10. Eureka Police Department's Criminal Investigation Section got a heads up there were continued threats against the child so they got a warrant and arrested the guy for several crimes including sexual intercourse or sodomy with a child under 10 and recurring sexual conduct with a child. Bail is set at \$1,705,000.

The Mendocino County District Attorney says he and associates across the state are speaking out about a new piece of legislation to downgrade certain felony robbery offenses to misdemeanors instead. The D-A's Facebook page says the California District Attorneys Association will speak out about Senator Nancy Skinner's Bill, which her office says will make sure in the case of theft, the punishment meets the crime. The president of the District Attorney's Association says most Californians understand "robbery is robbery", and "it's too bad Senator Skinner doesn't understand that". Next Tuesday several DA's and others will descend on the capitol in strong opposition of the bill.

Lake County Behavioral Health Services is reminding that April is Alcohol Awareness Month. The agency is encouraging all to educate themselves about the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption. They're joining other organizations across the county to honor Alcohol Awareness Month. The agency provides alcohol misuse, abuse, prevention, intervention and treatment services with individual, family, group counseling and education in partnership with various local partnering agencies. They say if you or someone you know is experiencing problems related to alcohol use or misuse, you can improve your health by cutting back or quitting. Limit your intake to no more than one drink a day for women or two for men. Keep track of how much you drink. Don't drink when you are upset. Avoid places where people drink a lot. Make a list of reasons not to drink.

Contact Lake County Behavioral Health Services for additional resources, 707-274-9101 or 707-994-7090.

A woman from Ukiah has been arrested after an assault on a man she had just met. Police identifying the suspect only as Smith, saying she contacted a 23 year old man who she met hours earlier while out walking. The two did not know each other before that. They had an argument after a couple hours and police say suspect Smith assaulted the victim, hitting him with a closed fist. The victim told her to leave and say she then picked up a large shovel and swung it at , hitting him in the head, and ran off with the shovel. The victim says the car may have been stolen from a neighbor, so they reported it to local law enforcement. The victim refused medical help. An off duty police officer saw the car on the 101 north of the Burke Hill exit. Officers found Smith inside, she had to be removed forcefully and was arrested after being found with that shovel. She was also on probation for two other stolen cars, now again and held on \$45,000 bail.

A man first thought to be mentally ill found walking naked in traffic was reportedly tased and pepper sprayed by police before being caught. Ukiah Police report one of their officers near the 1400 block of South State Street responded to the area after the Sheriff's office was sent to a report of a naked man walking in traffic. They say the man was "aggressive and took a fighting stance." So they deployed the Taser, but it was ineffective, so they did it again, and again it was ineffective. So a third time and a pepper spray finally helped, but they had to use a wrap restraint on the man. And medics came to the scene to help bring the man to Adventist Health. He's identified as Gerardo Magdaleno of Ukiah, who they say was probably high on meth. He was taken to the hospital as a precaution, then arrested for suspicion of resisting arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia and violating his probation.

The southbound 101 had to be closed for several hours after a semi-truck hauling scrap metal took a tumble south of Hopland in Mendocino County. The load on the truck dumped onto the highway Wednesday. The California Highway Patrol reports the southbound lanes of the highway were blocked between Hopland and the Sonoma County line around 4 am. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and Hopland Fire responded. They say it was fortunate it happened so early in the morning as traffic was light and most vehicles that came across the crash scene could drive around it. The highway reopened about 4 hours later, then after noon there was an all clear.

State Senator Mike McGuire's bill about new safety standards in high risk wildfire areas has overwhelmingly passed the Senate's Governance and Finance Committee. The senator's bill comes after the devastating 2020 wildfire season which burned over 4 million acres, when the state had its first gigafire, or more than a million acre fire. Also eight out of the 10 largest wildfires in state history have burned this past decade. McGuire says the state needs to change the way homes are built in high fire risk zones, and maybe not build there at all if there cannot be certain commonsense health and safety requirements met. His bill would ensure firesafe development including mandating primary and secondary access roads, mandated public safety vehicle access, funds for defensible space maintenance and vegetation management and mandated wildland fire hazard mitigation planning.

Another massive amount of unemployment claims in the state of Calif. 105,600 jobless claims were filed for the week that ended on March 27th. 9,600 more than the week before. It's probably pandemic related as way more claims have been filed since before business shutdowns to slow the spread of coronavirus started just about a year ago.

A major vegetation removal program is planned in partnership with the city of Clearlake and Cal Fire on a property where there had been illegal dumping, homeless camps and wildfires. Lake Co News reports city officials said there's been continued public nuisance on about 31 acres to the east and south of the Walmart shopping center on Dam Road. The land was supposed to be used for an expansion, but it's now full of fire fuel. The city manager says also attractive for illegal activity. There's been several fire threats the last few years. The city's leasing the land now for \$1/year so they can work with CalFire on the cleanup, since it's considered public ownership. They've begun to clean up debris and trash to prepare for firefighters to work there starting next week.

The Lake County Public Health Office is encouraging residents to get vaccinated. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace reports over 33% of county residents over 16 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine eligibility expanded to include all Californians age 50+ this week. People 16+ will qualify April 15th. But you can sign an interest form through the health dept. website if you're between 16-49, and open appointments before April 15th may be available. The dept. says there have been many open appointments the last few weeks, but no vaccine doses have been wasted. Pace also says "Vaccine Hesitancy" is common in the region, but it's very safe and highly effective. He says they serve 500-1,000 people/day, and no serious reactions have occurred at any clinics. The vaccine clinics in the county are in Lakeport: Mondays, 10am-4pm, Lakeport Auto Movies (52 Soda Bay Road) and Clearlake: Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10am-4pm, Redbud Park (14655 Lakeshore Dr.) Also Adventist and Sutter are hosting vaccine clinics for all eligible community members and Safeway in Lakeport and North Lake Pharmacies have some shots too.

04/05/21

A man in Fort Bragg has been arrested after an attack on another man. Deputies headed to the scene were told by the person reporting the incident that Jade Bennett hit a man with a metal object that caused injuries and he was on his way to the hospital. Deputies then reported to Adventist Health Mendocino Coast hospital and found the man with visible injuries after being hit with a metal cable with a block and steel hook attached. Bennett was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and felony probation violation. They also found the weapon. Bennett tried to get away so he was further charged with attempt escape from arrest and booked on \$60,000.00 bail.

A woman from Ukiah's been arrested after being found sitting in a car in Calpella and found to be under the influence of drugs. A Deputy cruising by saw a dark colored sedan pull up to a garage type structure and contacted Justine Norton who the Deputy knew from another contact and knew there was an active felony warrant for her arrest. She tried to run away, but the Deputy caught up to her where she was trying to hide behind some furniture. During a struggle Norton and the Deputy fell on the ground and there was a felony struggle. She was finally put into handcuffs and arrested and found to have 4 warrants. She was also booked for resisting or threatening a peace officer and contempt of court disorderly behavior and held on \$117,500.00 bail.

A woman on probation has been arrested in Calpella. The Sheriff's Dept. reports Deputies on routine patrol saw Lillian Chaney, who they knew from previous contact, and that she was on probation. They called dispatch with the license and were told the car had an expired registration. But the Deputy saw a current sticker on the car and found she had a couple misdemeanor warrants for her arrest. She also had two passengers with her. A search of her car found an open container, a violation of her probation so she was arrested for the warrants, violating her probation and unlawful display of evidence of registration. She was released from jail on zero bail because of the pandemic.

A couple of men from Ukiah have been arrested for having drugs on them, and one for a warrant. Eduardo Alvarez and an unidentified 40 year old man were pulled over. The unidentified man was driving, and Alvarez was the passenger and on parole with a warrant for his arrest. He was detained and the car searched. The Deputy found suspected meth under the driver's seat. If it's found to be meth, the driver will be cited for possession of a controlled substance too. Alvarez was booked on a No-Bail status

A drug arrest in Covelo after Tribal Police found a man with a rifle. Sheriff's Deputies got a call to Ira Bowes discharging a firearm in public. A Round Valley Tribal Police Officer got their first and found the man with the rifle. He says Bowes tried to get away and started running, but Deputies grabbed him, finding him only wearing underwear. A police dog went after him with his partner and the guy surrendered. They found the clothes he was wearing nearby and found a shell cartridge for the rifle and a car nearby had a bullet hole. They searched a home nearby too and found more shotgun cartridges and other ammo and arrested him. They say he was also under the influence so he was booked on \$175,000.00 bail.

Sheet1

A man from Point Arena's been arrested after reports of a burglary at the Sheriff's substation in town. Deputies say they found the front door pried open and desk and filing cabinet drawers opened. Micah Pilgram was arrested after Deputies looked at surveillance footage and connected him to the Burglary. He was going to be released from jail but a judge approved \$15,000.00 bail.

A woman in Covelo's been arrested after being found with a machine gun. Deputies had a search warrant for a home and found Jessica Oliver there with two other people. They say she was sitting in a nonworking truck and started questioning her, seeing a purse hidden in the fender of the truck. They searched it and found a 9mm pistol with a special selector switch attachment that would make the pistol a fully automatic machine gun; and a short-barrel 410 gauge double barrel shotgun and identification in Oliver's name. That weapon was illegally modified with a barrel length less than 18 inches and an overall length less than 26 inches. She was arrested on several charges of possessing the weapons but let go due to the pandemic, with a promise she'd appear in court at a later date.

After a man in Ukiah ended up in the hospital, then arrested after an altercation with Ukiah Police, his family and the public were speaking out about his treatment. Gerardo Magdaleno was believed to be on meth, but a taser and pepper spray were deployed on him Friday. He was not released from jail right away as he had to go back to the hospital due to injuries he suffered from the altercation with police. His family reported he was urinating blood and had kidney damage, which could be a problem due to him being prescribed lithium for mental health problems. Related to the case, the police dept. put out a statement that Magdaleno was hit by officers, calling them distraction strikes. But video shows he was also kicked. No word on any use of force punishment for officers, but the dept. says they're evaluating the incident.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors considering some grant opportunities. At their meeting tomorrow, the board will also present several proclamations. Supervisors will consider the highest priority projects for the Community Project Funding Program. That training includes changing the Lakeport Armory facility over to allow for wildfire training, and the Full Circle Effluent Pipeline Preliminary Design Report update, and pedestrian traffic and street improvements. There are also proclamations for Public Health Week, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Alcohol Awareness Month and Bird Appreciation Month in Lake County.

Old River Road had to be closed over the holiday weekend after a car crashed into a power pole. The power line fell down onto the road in about the 4000 block of Old River, bringing PG&E out to repair the downed lines. The CHP had on their website, someone hit the utility pole yesterday morning, but there were no witnesses nor was their a description of the vehicle, someone just heard it, but didn't see it.

The Fort Bragg Food Bank's Community Farm Stand has reopened after relocating. Local farms and home gardeners donate year round to the food bank. Last year they reported getting over 60,000 pounds of fresh fruits and veggies from local grocers, farmers and local home gardeners. They have options for those who get items from the Food Bank, that includes apples, potatoes, carrots and onions. They say those staples are usually available and as we move deeper into spring there will be more options. Some of their local, commercial donors include Harvest Market, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fortunate Farms, Chico Gleaners and Mendocino Coast Produce.

There is a vaccine clinic set up for first doses of the Pfizer vaccine at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds Thursday. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren says after several clinics with only second doses, they're getting more supply. You can sign up at the state's vaccine appointment site, MyTurn. The county has administered more than 50,000 doses of COVID19 vaccines and nearly 19,600 residents or 29% of adults are fully vaccinated. Wednesday there will be a Johnson & Johnson vaccine clinic in Talmage at the Mendocino County Office of Education that Coren says is mostly for agricultural workers. As of Friday, there was one person in the hospital with the virus, but they were in the hospital for something else and tested positive.

Property tax benefits are being expanded by the state Board of Equalization for seniors, the severely disabled, and victims of wildfires or natural disasters. The groups can transfer the taxable value of their residence up to three times during their lifetime. It comes as part of Proposition 19, The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act, that California voters approved last November. Those listed do have to meet other requirements to qualify and their original and replacement home have to be eligible for the homeowners' or disabled veterans' exemption. You can get an application at the County Assessor's office to start the process.

Five California gaming tribes have won in court after arguing the state negotiated gaming compacts in bad faith. There were years of negotiations between the State of California and a lot of the 74 gaming tribes. Then 5 tribes two years ago, that include the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, and Robinson Rancheria, sued the state connected to some provisions in new compacts the tribes said were improper under federal law. The court sided with the Tribes saying the state insisted compact negotiations include provisions prohibited by federal law and that it had nothing to do with regulating gaming activities nor were they topics at the heart of the gaming activity. The state now has 60 days to work with the Tribes to remedy the situation.

04/06/21

A lawsuit is brewing after the police attack on a man who's family says has severe mental illness. Last week Gerardo Magdaleno was arrested, found unclothed and was tasered and pepper sprayed. Video has emerged showing the man hit in the head and kicked and cursed at. There's outcry for and against Magdaleno's takedown. The Police Chief, Justin Wyatt, posted a video of himself on the matter on Facebook saying a full investigation is taking place and Magdaleno has reportedly hired a lawyer. Police say the punches to the head were called distraction strikes. They also claimed he was high on meth. Magdaleno ended up in the hospital after the incident, then again on the weekend. His family says he was off his meds and took LSD the day of his latest arrest. The City Council is having a special session on the matter today, behind closed doors. The names of the police officers involved have not been released, nor do we know if they were put on leave or disciplined.

Three people ended up in the hospital after a head on crash where one driver was accused of driving under the influence on Highway 29 near Lower Lake. The CHP reported the 29 year old driver of one vehicle, Ernesto Martinez of Fairfield had major injuries and was arrested. They say alcohol and drugs were suspected factors in the wreck. The other driver, Stacey Folmar and her 16 year old passenger, Garrett Folmar, both of Lower Lake, also suffered major injuries. Patrol officers say the Saturday crash happened after Martinez who was northbound on Highway 29 went into the opposite side of the highway, hitting Folmar. Also, Martinez was not wearing a seat belt.

State Sen. Mike McGuire's looking at ways to streamline the way hotel and vacation rentals pay their taxes. McGuire's bill would help, his office says, to collect millions in revenue across the state to help support vital city and county services, such as fire and police, public health, good roads, and for parks and libraries. Lake Co News reports almost every city and county in the state has transient occupancy taxes which is then usually just turned back around for use to support essential government services. McGuire says his bill will help cities and counties collect their tax revenue by requiring customers to pay when booked online. The bill unanimously passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee and goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee next.

A medical incident at Orr Hot Springs had local emergency responders on the scene. Mendo Fever reports hearing scanner traffic yesterday that Ukiah Fire, an air ambulance, and volunteer first responders were at the hot springs. One person apparently met them on their own, but a second person, a 74 year old woman had unknown injuries. One of them reported to be "out all night." First responders were at Montgomery Woods searching for the 74-year-old who had injuries. The Sheriff's Dept. told Mendo Fever the woman were rescued, describing them as an elderly couple out hiking and the woman fell and got hurt. A man with her called for help.

Sheet1

A new section of the multi-use trail is done in the Jackson Demonstration Forest. Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC) and Cal Fire announced Observatory Trail, which is about 2.2 miles is complete. It links a section for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians so they don't have to use the street to Forest History and Manly Gulch trails. Observatory Trail expands the existing trail system. Those who worked on it say it weaves through a stand of second growth forest where there are redwoods and Douglas fir trees. They say it reaches 1,000 feet elevation, but is fine for all skill levels.

Routine vegetation management is scheduled in Kelseyville by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The work on Highway 175 this week where vegetation is overhanging power lines. The utility company work Thursday could affect those driving in the area between mile markers 13.792 and 13.911 on the Highway. You may see tree-trimmers and giant equipment and at least one lane will be closed, possibly both lanes at some point because of the oversized equipment. They will have someone flagging people through or detouring around. The company says it's inspected about 100,000 miles of overhead power lines for wildfire maintenance work and prunes or removes about one million trees a year too.

The City of Eureka has hired a San Francisco law firm after an investigative report in the Sacramento Bee about "violent, sexually explicit and demeaning messages" between a squad of six Eureka police officers. The law firm is investigating the report, they're known apparently for public sector investigations. The police chief has been open about the agreement with the law firm with local media. The City Manager signed the agreement with the law firm at rates between \$125 to \$350 an hour and travel. The Police Chief says he shares in the community's distress and disappointment in the officers and are fully committed to the "process and the appropriate, legally supported outcome."

A first dose Pfizer vaccination clinic is being held by Mendocino County Public Health. The clinic is Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m., at the Ukiah Fairgrounds, 1055 N State St. You can sign up at myturn.ca.gov or by calling (833) 422-4255. Those who are eligible, including Phase 1 A, Phase 1 B, and those over the age of 50. There are those with certain medical conditions as well who qualify too.

- Bring a valid ID that has your date of birth and photo.
- If you qualify as a resident of Mendocino County, bring a voucher of your address (mail, rental contract, utility bill, etc.).
- If you qualify for employment in Mendocino County, bring proof of employment (recent paycheck, tax documents, license plate, business card, employer's letter, etc.) Do not register for a vaccination day if you are not eligible. An eligibility test is required.

State officials are reportedly working on a vaccine passport so that certain activities can start to reopen for those individuals. This according to the news organization Cal Matters. The site says the requirements for a “vaccine passport” — or so those who have proof of vaccination can go to certain gatherings such as weddings, conferences, concerts or theater shows. So starting April 15th, venues that regularly hosted concerts, theater or other events can have large crowds again if they make it mandatory for attendees to show proof either of a negative COVID-19 test or full vaccination. The people who prove they’ve been vaccinated will get access to special sections without social distancing.

Health officials in Sonoma County say they think the county is advancing to the orange tier in the Blueprint to Reopen the Economy. This means some businesses that have been closed for months during the pandemic can reopen and others can expand capacity. It comes though as the CDC director and other health officials have warned there could be a fourth wave of virus coming. Some areas are already experiencing it. The Sonoma County Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says the county’s close to returning to a sense of normalcy, but not quite yet, adding it would be “tragic to undo all the progress this close to the finish line.”

The Ukiah City Manager has put out a statement regarding the arrest, hospitalization and beating of a man seen wandering naked last week. City Manager Sage Sangiacomo says Ukiah police used many methods to subdue and restrain the man, since identified as Gerardo Magdaleno. And Sangiacomo says there’s now an investigation into the escalation during the incident and whether police principles and protocols were followed. He says the city understands the concern and they’re taking it seriously by launching a full and independent investigation and a separate independent review of existing policies to see if they can be augmented or otherwise improved. He also says they’re hopeful Measure B funds can be used to provide more resources for mentally ill people. Magdaleno’s family said he was mentally ill, was off his meds, and took LSD the day of the incident. They have hired a lawyer as well.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is working to reduce wildfire risk so they’re hosting an interactive online safety town hall for residents of Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity and Siskiyou counties. During the meeting the company will address the work they’re doing to prevent wildfires and review its Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events in 2020. There will be time for Q&A during the noon meeting tomorrow.

[The event can be accessed through the link or dial-in below or through PG&E’s website, pge.cor](#)

[Click this link to join: bit.ly/2YyvuSN](#)

Attendee Dial-in: (866) 501-6088

Conference ID: 9556119

[More information about PG&E’s Community Wildfire Safety Program can be found at pge.com/w](#)

04/07/21

After a man in Redwood Valley led police on a chase on his motorcycle, then took off running, deputies began an hours long search and told residents to shelter in place. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reported a pistol was found in a bag the suspect had left behind on someone's property, and that he muttered something about not wanting to go back to prison as he ran away from deputies and two police dogs. A drone also joined the search last night and a Nixle alert went out to those in the area of West Road in Redwood Valley from Zahadoom Way to Rancheria Road east to the river. Deputies were looking everywhere for the man they say had a criminal background in Lake County. As of late last night the man still had not been found.

Seizure like symptoms in the Mendocino County Jail led corrections officers to administer NARCAN to at least three inmates. Two started to look like they were recovering another had seizures. Emergency medical staff, jail medical and correctional staff then stabilized her and continued to care for the other two until they could be taken to a hospital. Then a fourth told officers she also took the same substance, which turned out to be Fentanyl. An investigation revealed someone brought the Fentanyl into the facility in a body cavity. They're now trying to figure out who did it.

The state may fully reopen by the middle of June. The Governor announced a change to the tier structure too, so Mendocino County can enter the less restrictive Orange Tier. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Andy Coren reported the changes take effect today. That means bars without food can reopen outdoors with safety protocols in place, same for Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries, but they get to add indoors with 25% capacity. Restaurants can increase their indoor dining capacity. Cardrooms, churches and indoor pools too. Movie theaters can have more people, same with other family entertainment. Some activities that reopen require masks and social distancing, others require proof of being vaccinated. Check the state's website for all of the new reopenings or modifications.

After a closed door special meeting of the Ukiah City Council, members decided the recent use-of-force incident by police against a mentally ill man should be independently investigated. Video caught officers beating and kicking the man identified as Gerardo Magdaleno last Thursday afternoon. The police chief said there would be an independent investigation, now the city council says they've reached out to the City Attorney's office to hire an outside, independent investigator too. They also noted the incident shows there are gaps in mental health and addiction resources. They say there should be solutions so police engagement can be avoided when possible. That relates to the passage of Measure B to improve mental health programs and facilities in the county. The council ended their statement by saying they're committed to transparency during the investigation.

A man in Willits has been arrested after a homeowner says a neighbor called to say nobody should be living on his property and someone was trespassing there. The Sheriff's Dept. sent out a deputy who says they found Russell Harmon had apparently moved onto the property without the owner's knowledge or permission. A records check on Harmon showed he had two felony warrants and one misdemeanor warrant so he was arrested and held on \$32,500.00 bail

A man in Willits has been arrested for vandalism and then was found with metal knuckles on him. A deputy saw a man parked and contacted Devin Nielson who got out of the car, they detained him and found there was a misdemeanor no-cite warrant for his arrest from last year in Mendocino County and found he was on misdemeanor probation so he was searched. The Deputy found a used glass pipe commonly used to smoke meth in his front pants pocket, a baggie with about a gram of a white substance and a container with another 5 grams of a crystalline substance, which looked to be meth. He was arrested and also was found to have metal knuckles. He's held on \$16,000.00 bail.

A man from Willits has been arrested after a traffic stop showed he had 6 warrants for his arrest. Deputies say Jeffrey French gave them a fake name, but they knew who he was from previous contact. They ran a records check and found the warrants so he was arrested, then booked into jail on no bail.

The Governor has announced a new tier system in the Blueprint to Reopen the Economy and with that the state is poised to fully reopen June 15th. That depends on vaccinating those over 16 first, and hospitalizations. It also won't be like before times. There will still be mandatory mask wearing, social distancing in some places, and if you want to take part in certain activities, proof you've been vaccinated. The Governor said yesterday there's an abundance of vaccine doses coming to Calif through this month and next so businesses can reopen or increase capacity for the first time in a year. The Governor did say though that restrictions could be back if COVID19 variations cause another surge.

Sonoma County, like Mendocino, has received approval to move to the Orange Tier. It comes as enough people in the lower income communities have received their vaccinations, 4 million. State health officials moved several counties to the Orange Tier after that, including Sonoma, Mendocino and Napa. Lake and neighboring Glenn, Tehama and Shasta counties stay in the Red Tier. Each Tuesday the state releases numbers for each county. And yesterday the Governor announced changing up the metrics since those 4 million in poorer neighborhoods had been vaccinated. So now bars can reopen outdoors with modifications and capacity limits increase for many other businesses and others closed for a year can reopen, some including indoor entertainment centers. The Gov. announced there would be no more colored tier system by the middle of June when the entire state reopens with "commonsense" risk reduction protocols in place.

The Sonoma County District Attorney has filed a lawsuit against PG&E related to the 2019 Kincadee fire. An investigation found it was the utility company's equipment that started the fire which sparked over 77,750 acres, destroyed 174 homes and caused the biggest evacuation in county history. 200,000 residents had to leave their homes. The complaint after the DA's office investigators worked with Cal Fire and independent experts to pinpoint the cause of the fire. PG&E admitted their transmission line caused the fire. Now the company's officially been charged with five felonies and 28 misdemeanors.

It's looking more and more like drought conditions. The latest snowpack measurements in California were below normal again. Last Thursday the Department of Water Resources had their 4th snow survey of the season at the Phillips Station snow course recording 49.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 21 inches. That's 83 percent of average for that location. The state director for water resources says there's no doubt the state is in a critically dry year. In Northern and Central Calif. it's a tad different because of the amount of snow, instead of rain. But the Mendocino National Forest also had below normal levels, 46% at Anthony Peak on the Covelo Ranger District. But it's better than the 32 percent density recorded a month earlier. The snowpack in the Northern and Central Sierra was at 70 percent of average, but rainfall below 50 percent of average.

At the regular meeting for the Ukiah City Council they're looking at a new traffic signal for the intersection of East Gobbi and Waugh Lane. There is other business too, but the first order on the agenda is the traffic signal and vehicle detection camera to lighten traffic. The city has accessed money for the work through the Mendocino Council of Governments. The city got over \$700,000 for the project and the lowest bid is about half that. The city's also trying to put in a signal at East Gobbi and South Main streets due to congestion too. The council's also expected to look at applications already received for two vacancies on the Ukiah Planning Commission.

A man and woman in Ukiah have been arrested after a routine traffic stop led to drug charges. Wednesday a patrol officer from the Sheriff's office saw a red car turn into a driveway. The driver James Hill and the front passenger apparently gave a phony name to the deputy. The passenger gave a family members name, but was identified soon after as Leticia Contreras. Hill was found to be on probation so a search ensued and heroin was found in the car along with a straw. He was cited for possession of a controlled substance narcotic and possession of drug paraphernalia. And

Contreras was arrested for felony false impersonation of another. She also had a felony warrant. So she was held on no bail.

A man from Ukiah's been arrested after reports someone was knocking loudly on someone's door while holding a machete. Deputies got a call to the 1300 block of North State Street yesterday and found Carlos Magana who they recognized from previous contacts. They say he peacefully removed a large knife from his pants, and seemed high on something and was uncooperative with field sobriety tests. He was checked for other weapons and deputies found a type of glass pipe, consistent with methamphetamine usage, a can of pepper spray and since he's a previous felon he cannot possess pepper spray. He was arrested for felony unlawful possession tear gas weapon, felony carry concealed dirk or dagger and possession of drug paraphernalia. While at jail he was found to have meth in a shoe, so he was further charged with possession controlled substance. He was released with a promise to appear in court, due to the pandemic.

The Lake County the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff voicing concern at the latest Board meeting about a new bill in the Legislature to repeal eligibility requirements for candidates running for the office of sheriff. Supervisors agreed to pulled the item from the agenda to discuss further, then agreed they'd send a letter directly to the bill's author, State Sen. Scott Wiener regarding his Sheriff Democracy and Diversity Act. Weiner says he drafted it to allow any registered voter to run for sheriff. That had been the only eligibility requirement back from 1850 until 1989. Now those interested need to have certificates to qualify but Wiener says that whittles those eligible down to a "tiny pool". He also says sheriff's have worked with ICE to help get people deported, have not enforced COVID safety protocols and failed to be responsive to demands for police and jail reform, plus about 90% of the state's sheriffs are white men.

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The teachers of the year have been announced in the Konocti Unified School District. The Superintendent says they each embody the dedication, creativity, and good humor that makes learning possible even in the most challenging of times—"and this year has certainly been challenging." The teachers are selected by their peers. They include the Districtwide Teacher of the Year Andrea Pullman from Burns Valley Elementary. Kim VanHorn is the Alternative Education winner. At East Lake Elementary, Kaytlin Zolensky was Teacher of the Year, Lower Lake Elementary teacher Suzy Tucker was another Teacher of the Year as was Lower Lake High teacher Tracy Lahr, Pomo Elementary's Janelle Schneider won the honor and finally, Babette Wellock was chosen from Konocti Education Center.

A man from Santa Rosa has been convicted of rape and assault for an incident in Ukiah last June. 50 year old Lamont Dean was charged with the attack on an unconscious female. He also admitted to a prior strike on his record from Solano County in 1999.

A fire has gutted an RV on the Sherwood Rancheria, east of Willits. Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control after it briefly spread to nearby brush. Little Lake and Cal Fire firefighters on the scene yesterday. Mendo Voice reports speaking to a resident of the rancheria who said the motorhome that caught fire was abandoned and loaded up with a bunch of junk. Firefighters went to the scene after getting reports of smoke and brought out several engines. Deputies were also at the fire which was only burning less than an hour thanks to still green brush after recent rains.

The Emerald City Museum is reopening after a pandemic closure. There's going to be a new exhibit there too starting on, you guessed it, 4/20. The Recall building in Willits will feature the new exhibit with stories from locals like well-known cannabis activist Pebbles Trippet. There will be displays from local artists, cannabis history memorabilia and a traveling Hemp Museum. Also on display, magazines, books, art, posters, pipes, regenerative farming techniques and more. The museum is open 12 – 5 on April 20th and every weekend thru the end of June. They're following strict COVID protocols, so call ahead for reservations.

Sheet1

A three car crash near Hopland closed a lane of traffic on the 101. Yesterday morning there was only one way controlled traffic for a time outside the southbound lane near La Franchi Road south of Hopland. 2 cars were blocking a lane and another was off the highway. Hopland Fire was on the scene tending to the injured and an air ambulance was flown in. One person was airlifted from the scene and three others were taken to the hospital in an ambulance.

A major effort with the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Northern and Golden Gate Divisions to try to help lower the amount of injury and fatal crashes on major highways in both divisions. It's part of the Major Corridor Enhanced Primary Collision Factor Enforcement Campaign starting today. The patrol reports more than 1,900 crashes in 2018 and 19 in the two divisions on the 101 from the Oregon border through Mendocino County, causing 745 injuries. And 53 people died in the crashes which officers say the primary cause is, speed, reckless driving, unsafe lane changes, unsafe turning movements, following too closely, distracted driving, and driving under the influence. They reported more injuries and deaths from not wearing seatbelts too. The CHP is working to promote safe driving along that part of the highway. They remind to always wear a seat belt, drive at a speed safe for conditions, eliminate distractions while driving, and always designate a sober driver.

The state has released new guidelines for in person learning at schools. On Tuesday the Governor had new guidance, which he did not say was mandatory, instead, he wanted to make sure schoolkids were not left behind on June 15th when the state is scheduled to widely reopen. Newsom says then that all K-12 schools should be open this fall full-time, five-days-a-week, for face to face learning. He included colleges in the reopening too saying there are financial incentives for all schools to reopen including vaccinations for school employees. At the same time the state Supt. of Public Instruction said there will be some families who either can't or choose not to have their children back to in person learning so schools may need to be flexible on that.

After the state auditor sent a letter to the Governor on the homelessness crisis in the state, there's a new system so lawmakers can take on the issue head-on. There are more than 160,000 people in Calif without a home, that's according to last year's point in time count, which happened before the pandemic. The state's homeless coordinating and financing council says the state has to address issues dealing with the unsheltered and that affordable housing is so hard to find, even when someone can afford shelter, they may not be able to find any. Now the new Homeless Data Integration System is online to help study the issue further. It shows the amount of homeless, how many have looked for help and how many more still wait for assistance.

Like Mendocino and Sonoma before it, it looks like Lake County will hit the Orange Tier. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday it could happen next week as the state has administered four million vaccine doses to the state's lowest income areas. So that has meant the numbers related to reopenings have changed. And the state's poised to completely reopen by the middle of June, as long as hospitalizations stabilize. Lake County, or any county in the state has to have 27 cases/100,000 residents, at the most, to move into Orange, for two weeks. Dr. Pace reported 35% of Lake County residents over 16 have been vaccinated and about 22% are fully vaccinated. Pace says there's been less demand, and more supply, but it's critical to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible.

The planned upgrade at Austin Park in Clearlake has been approved. It's to build a new bus stop and section of promenade. Last week the city council approved a half million dollar bid for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, new LED flashing traffic signage, crosswalk warning pavement lights, an electric utilities vault in the sidewalk and irrigation control, all with that new bus stop. Granite Construction came in with the lowest bid. The city manager says they've put the promenade and bus stop projects together as one so they could get better bids. And Lake Transit Authority is paying the city back for the bus stop project at nearly \$140,000.

If you're an entertainment or live venue impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant may be able to help. The portal to apply opened this morning for operators of live venues, live performing arts organizations, museums and movie theatres, live venue promoters, theatrical producers and talent representatives. These were impacted near the top of the pack when the pandemic surfaced a year ago. The SBA Administrator says concerts, plays, dance performances, movie premieres, museum exhibits are "the lifeblood of culture and community, and often the anchor for travel, tourism and neighborhood food and retail", which were also impacted. There is over \$16.2 billion available through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant by way of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act and the American Rescue Plan Act.

After four women accused the mayor of Windsor of sexual assault, local and state leaders are speaking out. State Senator Mike McGuire tweeted the allegations against Mayor Dominic Foppoli leaves only one option, to immediately resign, adding his behavior has caused "tremendous pain and trauma". The Press Democrat reports the allegations against the mayor go back 16 years. The newspaper reports trying to contact the mayor with no luck. But his lawyer says he "categorically denies having engaged in any of the abuses described." The first back in 2003 against an 18-year-old campaign volunteer who claims Foppoli raped her twice. Another a few years later who says he tried to rape her, then again in 2012, another woman met him in Reno says she was too drunk to stop him from attacking her. And the most recent allegation in 2019, a winery intern says he kissed and groped her against her objections.

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have access in many counties. California public health officials also say though that we're still in the demand vs. supply issue due to the tainted Johnson & Johnson vaccine. 15 million doses were cross contaminated with another vaccine. The state's received approx. 2.4 million doses this week, and expects 2 million next week and 1.9 million doses the week after. Some parts of the state are reporting tons of open appointments. The Lake County Public Health officer earlier this week reported that last week there were many available appointments. The state Office of Emergency Services says the My Turn system may have open appointments which could mean this weekend a limited number of walk ups for those 18 and over. Those 16 and over will be eligible next week.

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The continued remediation after the massive August Complex fire continues. There was an online meeting yesterday between Mendocino National Forest staff and researchers. There were 18 fires that all merged into one massive one that ended up as the state's largest ever and first ever Gigafire. It burned over 1,032,600 acres including over 2/3rd's of the forest's acreage. The post fire assessment by forest supervisors in the Mendocino, Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests was last fall. The follow up was how to restore the forest and clear debris. The project in the Mendocino National Forest outside Covelo and Willows calls for hazard tree removal and fuel reduction on 4,500 acres of a 15,500-acre burn area.

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Construction can move forward on a project locals aren't too happy about in Hidden Valley Lake. But the Lake County Planning Commission approved the project unanimously for the Hartmann Complex. They've granted the project a major use permit for the more than 12,400 square foot complex near the Greenview Restaurant and pro shop. The restaurant and pro shop will be relocated and the old building it's in will be torn down. The new building will house banquet facilities, a patio, and will require relocating practice greens and repositioning the first hole golf tees. There will be more parking, a dedicated drop-off area, new sidewalk, curb and gutter. 28 property owners nearby objected and 10 more wrote letters of concern.

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04/12/21

A fellow Windsor Town Hall member is accusing the mayor of Windsor of sex assault after 5 other women did the same. But the Mayor Dominic Foppoli who many are calling on to resign, says Esther Lemus sexually assaulted him. There was public support for Lemus at a small rally over the weekend right after Mayor Foppoli's own brother, and business partner, Joe called on the mayor to resign from office for accusations he sexually assaulted six women. Joe is the chief operating officer of the family's Healdsburg winery. He says he's trying to get Dominic, removed as the CEO and co-owner of Christopher Creek Winery. Joe also says he's urging him to resign as mayor. The mayor put out a statement over the weekend calling the whole thing political and says he's innocent and won't resign. Meanwhile over the weekend Lemus accused Mayor Foppoli of slipping drugs into a drink and attacking her. Foppoli says though Lemus coerced him into a "sexual situation" and threatened his political career if he exposed her.

Several demonstrators out over the weekend calling for the Sonoma County Sheriff to resign. They were out in front of Santa Rosa Junior College Saturday saying Sheriff Mark Essick has a pattern of bullying and intimidation. It comes after allegations by Board of Supervisors member and the Chair Lynda Hopkins. The rally by Love and Light, a group who organized the protest saying Essick should also not try to run for office again. Last year the same group came out for Measure P which expanded oversight of the Sheriff's office by an independent body.

At a special meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors they'll look at an urgency ordinance to extend the Temporary Moratorium on starting phase three for Cannabis cultivation permitting. They will study and look at the land use and other regulations regarding Cannabis growing in the county. The board is also considering the current and future impact of legal and illegal cannabis cultivation in Mendocino County. The board will also discuss water supply as we are in severely dry conditions, not yet an official drought, but close. They're also considering crisis intervention training for county staff. And funding and vacant positions in the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff will attend to update the board on some Cannabis enforcement operations

The August Complex Fire, the first Gigafire in the state, left quite a bit of burn scar, and destruction. Now Mendocino National Forest staff are looking for public comment on a proposal to reforest and improve the safety around a campground hit by the fire last year. The Hammerhorn Campground Restoration and Salvage Project. They'd be pulling out dead or dying trees all around the area and getting ready to replant. Comments are due to the Forest Service by May 10th on the project at the campground located about 17 miles northwest of Covelo and across from the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness. The fire left the campground with 75 percent or more tree mortality and vegetation loss.

The Lake County Public Health Office says the county's COVID19 case rate is much lower than the winter peak and so they could enter the Orange Tier. The state releases data every Tuesday, so that means Lake could be in the Orange Tier by Wednesday. Mask wearing and other health protocols and more vaccines will move the county further, according to the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace. He says all of the new cases are in people who have not received the vaccine and spreading it to others. Those who have not been vaccinated in Calif. could face more restrictions as the state has announced some events could require a vaccination to get in. Or you could have to show a negative COVID19 test.

A man in Ukiah has been arrested for an outstanding warrant. Police say Edward Two Feathers Steele was arrested after reports last Thursday of illegal campers tossing trash into a creek on City Well Road. A Deputy reported to the area and saw a man walking away who he recognized. That was Two Feathers Steele. The Deputy knew he had a warrant for violating his Post Release Community Supervision so he was arrested without incident and taken to jail on \$30,000.00 bail.

A couple in Willits arrested after a traffic stop. He for a warrant in Sonoma County for drug offenses and she for being on parole with meth. The driver David Mairs and passenger Caytlin Collicott were detained while the Deputy ran a records check. He found Mairs had a \$80,000.00 felony arrest warrant out of Sonoma County for failure to appear for possession of illicit drugs for sale while being in possession of a loaded firearm. He also had Mendocino County misdemeanor warrants for his arrest. After a search of their car, the Deputy found a glass meth pipe and some meth that belonged to Collicott. Her parole officer was called, and then the two were hauled off to jail. She was held without bail, but Mairs was released with a promise to appear in court, because of pandemic guidelines.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has a meeting with Pacific Gas and Electric regarding this fire season's possible public safety power shutoffs. The meeting tomorrow of the supervisors with a representative from the utility company on this summer's outlook for possible intentional power downs. The board will also get their weekly pandemic update from the public health officer, proclaim April Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designate the week of April 11th to 17th National Public Safety Dispatchers Week. They'll also hear their first reading of the amendment to commercial cannabis cultivation for those impacted by a Farmland Protection Zone.

Another online workshop regarding the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The Trails and Travel Management Planning Workshop is next Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. put on by the Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Office. It's the second workshop where the public can see an online map and help the BLM with its database of existing trails and routes at the monument and see what the usage is on each route. The BLM will also present what the public input has been so far and explain the travel management planning process and timeline and explain that there's still more public input needed. The federal government co-manages the land with the Mendocino National Forest.

To participate in the workshop, please register at least 30 minutes prior to the event at <https://reg>

Please contact the BLM to participate.

For specific questions, please contact Rebecca Carr Wong at 707-468-4023 or BLM_CA_BSM_

Another update is planned in the Ukiah Planning Commission online meeting on the homeless shelter on S. State Street. It's one of the regular reports that's mandatory each 6 months. The last meeting update was provided by the Community Development Director Craig Schlatter last October. The police department had noted a 40-percent increase in the amount of service calls they received from the shelter, Building Bridges between Aug. 6th of 2020 and Feb. 1st of this year. The shelter is supposed to continue operating another year. The Ukiah City Council just approved the extension through the summer months and into next spring with COVID measures in place.

Eagle Peak Middle School in Redwood Valley is back to in person learning. The principal noted that it's been a challenge to do online learning, one reason, is children don't always show up to class, but they have teams working with families to get students back to face to face learning. The principal says their project learning because they're a Science Technology Engineering and Math Magnet school was changed because everything went online. Another challenge he said was snow this winter. The school has been back to face to face learning since March 18th, first in a hybrid schedule with students in pods for all in person learning too. Others are allowed to stay doing online learning, if that's their family's preference.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors covering the move to the Orange Tier and wildfire season. This was for last week's meeting. They got their weekly COVID-19 update from the county's Public Health Officer Dr. Andrew Coren who reported case rates and test positivity rates are down. And that there had been no new deaths. What's more on Thursday there was only one new case reported and on Friday, none. We don't have the weekend numbers yet. Mendocino is in the moderate, Orange Tier. The Board touched on the upcoming fire season, dry weather, and preparing for the summer after last year's August Complex gigafire. Right now Cal Fire has more than a dozen preventative projects in the county.

Add Brookside Elementary in Willits to the schools that are reopening post pandemic. All students at the elementary school whose families have agreed for them to be in person again are coming five days a week. But those who want to stay home can. There are new protocols in place of course including the playground being cordoned off in some areas so class cohorts can go in different sections. And kids are wearing masks. There are dots painted outside classrooms for students to know where to park themselves, away from others, when they're eating.

The California Highway Patrol's campaign to keep a stretch of highway safe ended in nearly 600 tickets. The patrol's Northern Division and Golden Gate Division working the 101 throughout the whole of northern California in the Major Corridor Enhanced Primary Collision Factor (PCF) Enforcement Campaign last Thursday. They worked from the Oregon border to San Jose. They gave out 597 citations to be exact. 402 were for unsafe speed, including three for going over 100 mph. The rest were for distracted driving, unsafe lane changes, unsafe turning, following too close, and seatbelt violations. They also say there were 102 verbal or written warnings and five arrests.

At a children's birthday party at Big River Beach, their treasure chest with treats was ripped off. Mendo Fever reports a mother of one of the kids in attendance says parents were told a family with 3 kids and a blue umbrella were spotted with the treasure chest leaving the area. The mom says the children at the party were quite upset after working so hard to uncover the hints at the scavenger hunt, not to get the treasure chest in the end. The birthday was Sunday at about 2:00 p.m. Organizers asking anyone who may know something to email... Gisela Ornelas at Giselaornelas92@gmail.com.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife warning to stay away from baby deer even if it seems abandoned. Moms like to hide their fawns they say, in tall grass or brush, for hours on end as they look for food. The Dept. says they get calls annually for fawns separated from their moms and removed from the wild by concerned members of the community. They say since it's hard to place them at a sanctuary or elsewhere, they end up getting euthanized because they can't survive in the wild on their own. They say if you suspect a fawn has been abandoned to leave it and call your local Fish & Wildlife office. And do the same if you remove a young animal from the wild or take it to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator within 48 hours. It's also a crime to keep them as pets, you could be fined up to \$1,000 and/or get six months in jail.

04/13/21

Some Trinity County August Complex survivors are suing the US Forest Service. Apparently a group of survivors have been meeting up and plan to file federal tort claims after losses from the massive inferno. The group met last weekend to fill out claims. A tort claim can be not only financial, but also can include physical injury and emotional distress among other injuries.

The Sonoma County District Attorney has recused her office from the case against the mayor of Windsor, now accused of sexual abuse or rape against six women. DA Jill Ravitch says the state Attorney General's Office informed her they'd take over immediately to review the reported incidents against Mayor Dominic Foppoli and if appropriate, any charges or prosecuting would also be handled outside her office. She apparently asked the state agency Sunday to take over after allegations by someone in her office against the mayor came out, which would mean a conflict of interest in any investigation.

A special meeting is being held in the Town of Windsor to discuss demanding the mayor resign after allegations of sexual assault and rape against him. The meeting tomorrow night with the public over zoom. It all started last week when the San Francisco Chronicle reported 4 women over 16 years had accused the Mayor Dominic Foppoli of various sexual misconduct, harassment and rape charges. Then over the weekend a couple more allegations surfaced and the mayor put out a statement denying it all.

There's a trio of new cops in Fort Bragg. The city announced recruiting new officers, Jarod Frank, Antoinette Moore, and volunteer Patrick Smith who were sworn in to office as official city employees yesterday. Smith is volunteering as Police Chaplain. He's also a veteran and dog trainer and became Peace Officer Standard and Training certified to take on the position. Police officer Jarod Frank hails from Sacramento and was working in the Los Rios Police Department where he served for several years. And the new Community Service Officer Antoinette Moore comes from Santa Rosa, but has worked in Ukiah in the past. She has also been a firefighter in the past.

Money is being raised to help the long closed down Noyo Theater. They closed due to the pandemic over a year ago, and have now planned a fundraiser. On May 4th, which is the 81st anniversary of the theater, and Star Wars Day, the owners are playing the classic John Wayne film "Dark Command" which was shown back in the 40's on opening day. They're just asking for donations to come in to see the film which they're running for a week. There's also a Go Fund Me for anyone who wants to help the cause and they're offering private screenings too. They're trying to get to \$50,000 as it's been costing them \$5,000 a month just to maintain, even though they're still closed.

The Lakeport Schools Superintendent has appointed a new board member. The announcement by Superintendent Jill Falconer about Jennifer Williams-Richardson and the school nurse was recognized for her work during the pandemic. Nurse Diane Gunther wasn't at the meeting last Thursday, but the superintendent noted her work. The board also approved buying a massive air filtration system for offices and other communal spaces. The ones purchased reportedly filter out 99.5% of harmful ultra-fine particle. They also approved coming up with an indoor air quality improvement and conservation program with COVID related money.

A lot of students who would generally go to community college in person are taking a break. That's the word from a new report from the Calif. Community Colleges chancellor's office. The office says there were massive enrollment drops during the pandemic. Over 260,000 less students enrolled last fall compared to in 2019, before the pandemic surfaced. California's community college system is the largest in the nation with around 2 million full and part-time students. The numbers dropped almost 17% last fall after already being lower before the pandemic. EdSource reports the biggest drop in enrollment was at the College of the Siskiyous where they saw 56% of its students drop off. Then it was Reedley College in the Central Valley, with a 39.5% drop.

There are now six new Little Free Libraries in Ukiah. The Rotary Club put them up over the weekend after months of work. They are installed in or near city parks just like tens of thousands erected worldwide. The local Little Free Libraries were put up Saturday at Nokomis Park, McGarvey Park and Oak Manor Park. You can take a book, but you have to return it or trade in another book instead. Apparently the plan in the works for over a year where Rotarians were working it out. They continued to meet on Zoom, then over the weekend had their first in person meeting since the pandemic broke out. They are still meeting over Zoom though, every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m.

A new report says testing for COVID19 in Calif. has gone way down. The latest report from the State Dept. of Public Health showed the rate of testing was off over 60% since January's peak. The lowest in the Bay Area, Santa Cruz County, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Mateo the past three months. And testing is down across the nation. But as testing is down apparently the prevalence of new strains are hard to follow. Calif. also has a couple of its own variants of the virus. All of the splintered strains are growing. And the one that's the worst, from Brazil, which is more resistant to treatments, along with the South African variant, which beats vaccines, are both also up.

The new construction at Lucerne Elementary is complete. There's a new kindergarten building, with two large classrooms, large enough for social distancing. They replace two portable classrooms. Each of the new classrooms are over 1,100 square feet, have their own bathroom, a work/storage room and outside storage. The school started to build the classrooms in the height of the pandemic, last spring. They had their final construction walk through over winter break. Then students and teachers started to trickle back in in February.

The Clearlake City Council is having two public hearings, but it's still capped capacity due to the pandemic. The regular meeting tonight at 6 in council chambers and on the city's YouTube channel or local cable. There's also Zoom participation. There will be a proclamation read for the departing Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace. Then Thursday, the council is having their two public hearings, one for a development agreement for a commercial cannabis operation on Olympic Drive, the second for a proposal for a grant application for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program.

Not many counties moving forward in the color coded COVID19 system. The state makes the announcements each Tuesday. We reported last week Inyo and Merced were the only ones left in the Purple Tier. Inyo looks to be finally getting to Red, but not Merced, that may take until the end of the month. 31 counties are now in the Orange Tier and 21 in Red. The numbers for this week have not been put online yet, but that should happen soon. Mendocino is in Orange and Lake is in Red, but expected to move to Orange by tomorrow. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is also on hold for the moment as there have been reports that six women had blood clots, possibly from getting the vaccine. About 7 million doses have been administered so far including around 900,000 in Calif. And the state might also have as many as 1.2 million single shot doses in providers' inventory.

Limits on church and other indoor worship services have been lifted after the Supreme Court ruled against coronavirus public health mandates. But the Calif. Department of Public Health is still discouraging indoor gatherings and says there should still be limits to 25% of a building's capacity for the two-highest levels of the four-tier Blueprint to Reopen the Economy. The Center for American Liberty filed a bunch of lawsuits against the Blueprint for churches. The center's founder says the Governor should have lifted the restrictions long ago, saying the state's been targeting the faith community saying it's discriminatory treatment which deprives the community of their fundamental right to worship.

There will be face to face summer school offered in Kelseyville. The School District announced they'll have in-person summer school weekdays July 6 to 30 with classwork from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon, then a half-hour lunch and dismissal at 12:30 pm. There will be on-campus COVID safety protocols including mask wearing and social distancing. Any parent interested in enrolling their child has until May 17th to do so. You can visit the school district website to register or you can call your student's school for more info.

04/14/21

Lake County has finally caught up to some of its neighboring counties, hitting the Orange Tier in California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Yesterday the California Department of Public Health released their data for each county, announcing Lake County advanced to the Orange Tier, this means bars can reopen outdoors, there are no restrictions are retailers, museums, zoos and aquariums, churches and movie theaters can be at 50% capacity. Gyms can be at 25%, same for wineries, breweries and distilleries. The state also announced its new "Activity and Business Tiers" chart. It shows what businesses can be open, at what capacity and if guests can be closer together if they've been tested or fully vaccinated. Over 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine now having been administered in California. The Gov. announced earlier this month the state should fully be able to reopen by June 15th.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors had a special meeting on Cannabis Cultivation and Cannabis Facilities Ordinances. The board is asking the public to do its part by weighing in on the ordinances but says not everyone interested in speaking up will be able to. The board has set another special meeting on the topic too but says there's heightened public interest so public comment may be on a first come first serve basis. The Board Chair says there's been a lot of talk between the Board, county planning commissioners, and county staff at dozens of public meetings on the terms and conditions for permitting the regulated portion of the cannabis industry and that this past Monday and next Monday's public hearings are a continuation of many years of deliberations.

The Governor says he's prepared executive orders on drought ahead of what could be another devastating fire season. There's a hustle to get thinning in the forests done, buffer zones cleared and recruit more firefighters. As expected Newsom signed a massive early action package ahead of the heat of the season, \$536 million for mitigation efforts. That's about \$200 million more than Newsom was asking for. He visited an old burn scar with firefighters in Oroville yesterday and signed the legislation in a photo opp on the step of a firetruck. Over 4% of the state burned last year and 33 people were killed as massive infernos destroyed almost 10,500 buildings.

A group of protestors parked it on a logging road near Caspar. They said they'd barricade the road to stop logging on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. CalFire has a timber harvest plan and the protestors want to stop it from starting. Mendo Voice reports protestors saying they want to continue talking about the plan and pause the logging work. But they have not demanded anything. The news site reports there are some who are calling for the entire western section of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest to be redesignated as a preserve, not an active working forest. Mendocino Trail Stewards and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians have been discussing the logging work with CalFire for months. But CalFire says they're going ahead with a half dozen projects. Jackson is not a state park, it's a working forest owned by the state. That means CalFire is charged with thinning to show the best sustainable forestry practices.

A huge grant comes to the city of Lakeport for road safety projects. Lake Co News reports over \$227 million has been made available by Cal Trans for safety projects to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries on city and county roads. The money comes from the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program which the city applied for last year. Lakeport is getting a good chunk of change, \$261,000 to replace 547 signs like yield, curve and slippery road conditions. The state agency chose 266 projects to spend on safety enhancements like new traffic signals, roundabouts, turn lanes, rumble strips and guard rails. But that's only about half of the 469 grants applications submitted.

A fire that started as a controlled burn near Willits got a bit out of hand. Firefighters from CalFire and the Little Lake Fire Dept. went to the scene outside Willits yesterday for what they eventually started calling the Wild Incident. When they got there, they reported a slow rate of spread. The fire was reported on Wild Iris Lane, east-southeast of Willits and was quickly contained after burning about a ½ acre of land.

Assemblyman Jim Wood speaking about the Governor's wildfire package, which was just signed into law. Wood says as fire season is looming, he's glad work was done to get the critical funding deal together. It includes money Wood requested three years ago after the October 2017 firestorm across Northern Calif., \$278 million. Another \$25million for home hardening projects, of which the state can apply to FEMA for matching funds, and \$50 million more for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. Wood says with a possible drought year ahead, we have to do everything possible to avoid another catastrophic fire season.

Students learning English as a second language are reportedly not much into getting back to in-person learning in some Calif. school districts. CalMatters reports many continue to stay home because their parents are concerned about the risk of COVID-19 infection. It's been over a year since online learning became a thing. But CalMatters reports school officials and researchers say they're concerned English learners are some of those with the highest levels of learning loss in distance learning. And a recent report from Policy Analysis for California Education, out of Stanford University, shows between fall 2019 and fall 2020 English learners and low-income students in California were falling behind more compared to others.

A distracted driving campaign is on in Lakeport. Police are trying to educate drivers not to use their mobile device while driving and to concentrate on the road. This entire month police in the city are trying to get out and talk to drivers about the dangers of distracted driving and will be enforcing the distracted driving law. It's illegal to drive with your phone in hand. And newer teen drivers, those under 18, aren't allowed to even have their phone on, including hands free. Lakeport police remind if you have to send a text, pull over to a safe location first. Also, don't scroll on a smart phone while driving.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has announced its new Community Microgrid Enablement Program. The energy company says it's to help communities "identify, design and build permanent, multi-customer microgrids serving critical facilities and vulnerable customer groups." It's basically a stand alone electric system that works independently from the central energy grid. Just approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), PG&E is putting up the technical expertise and the cash on a first come first serve basis for the most qualified projects that are centralized in areas with the greatest energy resilience needs. The company reported they're dedicating funds to help disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

After reports of widespread unemployment fraud in Calif., a prison inmate has admitted she conspired to rip the state off of as much as \$100,000 in unemployment benefits. The money was earmarked for those who lost their jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic. The state reportedly lost over \$810 million to such fraud cases. 45 year old Alana Powers, an inmate at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, and 51 year old Jason Vertz of Fresno each pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and aggravated identity theft. The pair were nabbed after phone calls were recorded showing Powers and other inmates provided Vertz with their personal info for unemployment applications.

Childcare providers in the state of Calif. have reportedly still not received a promised stipend from February. The Governor said the stipends would be for \$525 per child which could help childcare providers stay open. The money by way of the federal government and distributed to state agencies and local organizations who directly pay the providers. Social Services says the money should go out this month to those local organizations who have one month only to get the money out to providers. And the Department of Education reported their contractors were mailing the money out yesterday and providers should receive it sometime between April 30th and May 15.

More revelations about the mayor of Windsor as yet another report that multiple women had accused him of rape. The Press Democrat reports a resident in the town told officials she had heard that many women accused Mayor Dominic Foppoli of rape and he was not fit to serve, but police didn't take action. The resident, Patty Wallace wrote to town officials on the matter which had been at least the second warning to officials about alleged sexual misconduct over three years. There was another email back in 2017 which was not hearsay but a more detailed first person missive on the mayor. Something that had happened at a party back in 2013 at Foppoli's winery including getting employees drunk without their consent and having them remove clothing articles. No criminal investigation was ever opened. But now there is after the San Francisco Chronicle posted a story last week that four women accused Foppoli of rape or harassment over 16 years.

The California secretary of state's office is still awaiting a couple million dollars from politicians, lobbyists and campaign donors who filed disclosure reports late. CalMatters reports some of the bigger fines they uncovered were not dealt with yet after years of no action. The list is published online on the secretary of state's site showing each of the outstanding fines as of April 1st. It includes 26 state lawmakers and 21 superior court judges, former legislators, losing candidates, ballot measure campaigns, Democratic and Republican clubs and corporate and labor-backed political action committees. Some are lower than \$100, but 45 of them are over \$10,000. Some of which are over ten years old.

A letter has been sent to the City of Fort Bragg by a union representing government employees. The letter was reportedly sent to the Mayor and City Council with the title, "harassment of City of Fort Bragg staff." It was reportedly written by a field representative of Service Employees International Union, Patrick Hickey and the President of the City of Fort Bragg Chapter of the union, Alden Ramos. It said they were concerned about ongoing harassment and "borderline stalking" that city staff have been dealing with from a community member with an unhealthy fixation on the city staff members. They accuse Jacob Patterson of visiting city staff's homes and taking pictures and wonder about his mental stability.

04/15/21

At a special meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors an item was approved so the new Cannabis Program Manager can say no to any non-compliant Phase One applicants instead of extensions or fixes. The Daily Journal reports many applicants don't respond to make changes or have multiple violations. Cannabis Program Manager Kristin Nevedal told the board if they have to keep chasing people down who don't respond, they don't have time to process the ones who are following the rules so they can receive a yearly license and full permit. The board is also going to use outside lawyers to help further that idea. And the board is also looking at how Humboldt County has been doing code enforcement and considering buying a satellite imagery set up to help with code enforcement.

A chaotic online public hearing in Windsor as residents spoke over each other yelling resign to the mayor who has been accused of rape and sexual misconduct. The Press Democrat reports people in the meeting were yelling at, swearing at and calling the mayor a rapist. For several hours Mayor Dominic Foppoli listened and did not respond. The newspaper reports four hours in last night, he announced he would exit the meeting "out of respect" and the other two council members voted, demanding Foppoli resign. But Foppoli voted against the motion and left the meeting which continued for 2 ½ more hours. There were over 1,000 people in attendance during the 6 hour meeting over Zoom.

Power regulators are reportedly going to reprimand Pacific Gas & Electric for continued neglect of its electrical grid. The California Public Utilities Commission is sending official notice to the utility saying it's not working hard enough to reduce wildfire risks because it still has old, faulty equipment and hasn't trimmed or removed enough overgrown trees that could touch or fall onto nearby power lines. The Public Advocates Office, a watchdog agency says the state should reject the utility company's plan to prevent wildfires at the Public Utility Commission's meeting today.

As talk of severely dry conditions continues, it's looking dire on the Oregon-Calif. border. Farmers relying on an irrigation system at the border found out they're only getting a tiny amount of what they normally get due to drought conditions. The Gov. of Oregon says they're paying full attention to the drought and she's working with Congress, the White House and other federal agencies to get help. One of the Indian Tribes impacted by possible irrigation pumping into the region says even with added pumping, they're facing a "catastrophic loss" of salmon this year. And another Tribe sued the Bureau of Reclamation this week to make sure they have the minimum water levels in Upper Klamath Lake for sucker fish saying it's repugnant how the ecosystem has been mismanaged.

A man from Willits has been arrested after arguing between a man and woman led Deputies to their residence. Deputies contacted Thomas Maddox after seeing a woman at the house with visible injuries on her face including bruising around her eye and a cut on her lip. They also noted, Maddox had a visible injury on a hand. The two had apparently argued before it got physical. But deputies found Maddox was on formal and summary probation and not allowed alcohol, had to obey all laws and have only peaceful contact with the woman. So he was arrested for domestic battery and violation of probation and held on \$35,000.00 bail.

A man from Ukiah is reportedly wanted in connection to an attempted robbery at a market. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports 25-year-old Seth Smart is on the run after the attempted robbery at Contreras Meat Market on Talmage Road. Deputies say the man had a big knife on him and tried to pry open a cash register. It was also reported he may have also had a gun. He was seen getting into the passenger side of a brown Jeep Cherokee. He's described as a White man, 6 feet tall, 175 pounds, with blue eyes and blonde hair, seen wearing a beanie and camouflage clothing.

Police have arrested a man in Ukiah after a couple of fires broke out, calling them arson. It happened Tuesday night around dinner time near pocket park. Officers arrived to find a fire in Doolan Creek, but they were able to use fire extinguishers to smother the fire. Firefighters got to the scene then found another fire along the railroad tracks, east of the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds. They say the two were arson and started checking the area. They say a resident contacted them who said they saw a man by the railroad tracks with a propane torch light a flower and some grass on fire, but stomped it out. They found a man by the Grace Hudson Museum matching the description. He's identified as Thomas Hidalgo who had the torch and was wearing burned clothing. He also had a dirk or dagger so he was arrested. He was also on probation so he's booked into jail on violation of that and arson and held on \$50,000.00 bail.

A two car crash ends in seven people injured. Mendo Fever reports a Black BMW and a Black Honda Ridgeline crashed bringing out the CHP, Anderson Valley Fire and State Parks officers. They brought in two air ambulances. The road was blocked for a time. The reporter for the news site heard the incident on a scanner and reports the two vehicles had major front-end damage. Three people ended up in the hospital, one of which at Santa Rosa Memorial, after being transferred from Ukiah. Others got medical treatment at the scene.

A string of car thefts reported in Lakeport lead police to a shout out to the public to be cautious. Lake Co News reports police saying there had been a “significant increase” in vehicle thefts. Nearly a dozen reports since the beginning of the year. Last night police reported if the trend continues it would mean more car thefts than last year, when 31 people reported their car stolen. 28 of which were found. In 2021 so far six of 12 have been recovered. Police are reminding to keep your windows and doors locked, park in well-lit areas, not to leave your car running and leave it, don't leave your keys inside and to take all valuables with you or place them out of sight.

The lawyer for a woman from Novato who's charged with killing 2 people from Clearlake in a drunk driving crash is raising concern about her mental competency. 22 year old Keilah Coyle made her first appearance in court Tuesday for two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, negligent vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, gross vehicular manslaughter and driving under the influence causing injury. There were also special allegations of great bodily injury and an enhancement for more prison time if convicted for causing death to more than one person. Her lawyer brought up doubt about his client's mental competency in the case. She's accused of driving head on into a van last month, killing the driver and passenger. She was found to be under the influence of alcohol. Now she will be evaluated for the court to see if she's competent to understand the proceedings and help in her own defense. She's in jail on \$2 million bail.

Congressman John Garamendi and a couple of Senators, one Republican, the other a Democrat have reintroduced the “Made in America Act”. Garamendi along with Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Republican Senator Mike Braun of Indiana looking to strengthen “Buy America” requirements for major infrastructure projects funded by the federal government that support American businesses, manufacturers and workers. It will set federal programs apart to fund infrastructure projects so that building materials like steel and iron are manufactured in America. It mandates the U.S. Department of Commerce ensure manufacturing processes support American jobs.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is having their second special meeting on Cannabis permitting. A group of concerned citizens is passing around a flyer who say allowing more permits threatens agriculture, rangeland and the environment, not to mention it's threatening the water supply and fire safety. The vote Monday night by the Board will open up rural lands and open spaces, the concerned citizens say, to large commercial cannabis grows. They say they voted Measure AF down in 2016 which would have expanded cannabis grows on rangeland, and now want supervisors to do the same. They're asking citizens to show up to voice their opposition. The board is however expecting a large turnout for public comment Monday, so the comments will be done first come, first served. The flyer circulating is sponsored by 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak, the former director of the Department of Forestry, Richard Wilson, a retired CalFire division chief out of Willits, William Bradley, as well as other prominent citizens from the county.

04/16/21

A man from Ukiah could be going to prison for ripping off some money from a motel room last year. The Mendocino County DA reports 60 year old Robert Ed Taylor was convicted for going into a motel room last May and stealing \$800 while the occupants were away. He also had six previous Strike offenses from 1979 – 2016 for various crimes like robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, and making terrorist threats, twice. He had more charges on his record out of Southern Calif. too for grand theft, causing traumatic injury in Santa Cruz County and possessing drugs in Alameda County. His case is being sent to the probation department for a sentencing recommendation and he's due back in court next month.

As cases head down the slope in Calif. the Gov. is allowing more businesses to open on the way to a full reopening in a couple months. And lawmakers have passed a bill so hotels and other hospitality companies start to bring laid-off workers back. The industry was hit hard by the state's stay home order last year and companies are starting to fill back up, to at least 50% capacity. A Democratic lawmakers bill forces hotels, private clubs and janitorial service companies to reach out to former employees and give them their jobs back, but also give them five days' notice to see if they want to come back.

Even more people are eligible to get the coronavirus vaccine. The state is allowing anyone over age 16 to be vaccinated and reports there are more vaccine doses on the way. And almost half the residents 16 and older have received at least one dose, and nearly 74 percent of those 65 and older. The state reports administering more than 24 million doses, almost 5 million of those in the hardest hit communities. Blue Shield who is managing the vaccines for the state says the state can administer up to six million vaccine doses a week. The director of the state Dept. of Public Health says we still need to stay vigilant and not let our guard down even after being fully vaccinated.

In Lake County, the interim Public Health Officer, says cases are declining. Dr. Evan Bloom is filling in for Dr. Gary Pace who's on vacation. Bloom reported to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday those getting the virus now are not vaccinated, and that's why they're pushing for more people to be fully vaccinated. You can sign up with Public Health to get your vaccine, they will automatically set up your second appointment for you. Adventist Health and Sutter Health are hosting vaccine clinics and Lake County Tribal Health Consortium is vaccinating its patients.

The state Public Utilities Commission had been looking to rebuke or somehow punish Pacific Gas and Electric for not taking swifter action in its plan to fight wildfires in its service area. The commission has put the utility in the first of the six steps of Enhanced Oversight and Enforcement Process so the company will work faster to improve its safety record after coming out of bankruptcy in 2020. This means the commission could come down even harder on PG&E to make sure the company is working to improve its safety performance if specific "triggering events" occur. They will have enhanced reporting and oversight requirements and if they continue to fail, there could be a full revocation of PG&E's ability to operate as a California electric utility.

Library Park in Lakeport has no bathroom access at night because of ongoing security issues. The city reports staff from the Public Works Department are working on more maintenance and upkeep at the public restrooms and nearby boat ramps. Lake Co News reports there have also been complaints people were in the bathrooms longer than a half hour and leaving hazardous things like used needles behind. The city also reported some people were even sleeping in the bathrooms overnight and locking the doors. So they will all be closed and locked at midnight and the main restrooms, next to Carnegie Library at the park, are locked at 4:30 p.m. daily. There will also be more police patrolling the park.

Here we go again, critically dry land across Calif. That means wildfire season is sooner. The National Weather Service in Sacramento says there's record dryness in the state for this time of year, that's more typical of June, than April. Lake Co News reports a professor of meteorology and his students from San Jose University are studying plants moisture content saying April's usually the highest fuel moisture content, but the plants they studied for the Fire Weather Research Laboratory were still dormant. The news site reports Calif. is 70% below normal for total precipitation this water year which goes from Oct. 1st to September 30th of the following year.

The Governor is pushing for all Calif. schools to reopen in the fall. It's not a mandate though. The Gov., who is facing a recall effort, plans to reopen the state June 15th. And as part of his plan, he wants to see schools 100% reopened in the fall for the next semester. The Gov. visited an elementary school in Santa Rosa a couple of days ago saying, if the current trend of cases going down continues, full in-person instruction can be offered to all students next school year. There are no requirements for schools to reopen, but he is offering financial incentives for schools that do. Some schools and teachers remain reluctant, and parents, especially in hardest hit areas are still keeping their kids home even if in person learning is offered.

Things are getting better at the Building Bridges Homeless Shelter in Ukiah. The last report that went to the Planning Commission on the shelter's operations regarding police calls, shows they've gone down the last several months. The Daily Journal reports there were no reports of complaints from the public or those staying at the shelter since the last report. There were 135 calls between September 2020 and February 2021 to Police, but it was down from 189 calls the year before. The report says most of the calls were from those staying at the shelter, but management says they believe they've improved the reporting process. There was concern about a possible rape report, but apparently it came from someone who was not staying at the shelter and came to the shelter for help.

California plagued with fraudulent unemployment claims and still investigating. Now a new report says first time claims were at their lowest level for three months. There were nearly 70,000 initial claims during the week ending April 10th, way lower than the 145,500 claims from the week before. Across the country there were 576,000 initial claims down from 769,000 claims the week prior. Continual glitches in Calif. though with the system. The Employment Development Department tweeted 178,000 workers couldn't reapply for their benefits though. They say they're trying to fix the glitch.

The federal government has declared Calif. is officially in a drought. The U.S. Department of Agriculture declared a drought disaster for 50 counties so farmers across the state can get federal loans. The Secretary of Agriculture reportedly wrote to Gov. Newsom with the designation, calling them "primary natural disaster areas" due to drought. That means emergency federal loans can be made available. It's not a drought emergency declaration though, that would allow the governor to take action for the entire state, like mandatory conservation, waiving some regulations and reallocating funds.

04/19/21

Tonight is the night... The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hosting a second special meeting on Cannabis cultivation permits. It comes about a week after a group of concerned citizens sent around a flyer saying if the county allows more permits it will threaten agriculture, rangeland and the environment. Plus they say it's already threatening the water supply and fire safety. The vote tonight by the Board to open up rural lands and open spaces to more commercial cannabis cultivating. The concerned citizens say the board should vote it down after citizens voted Measure AF down in 2016. The board is allowing public comments then will vote tonight. They expect a large turnout so not everyone who wants to comment will be able to, the comments will be first come, first served.

After a Mendocino Deputy on patrol did a routine traffic stop on the 101 in Willits, and smelled marijuana in the car, 4 people were arrested. The Deputy speaking to the driver, Tomas Valencia and three passengers, Camilo Valencia, Ali Khan and Alvin Valliaril and noticed loose weed in the car. The Deputy searched and found twenty-four (24) one (1) pound bags of processed marijuana and packaging material to ship it through the United States Postal Service. They had no invoices or a shipping manifest so they were arrested and taken to jail. Due to the pandemic though, they were all released on zero bail with a promise to appear in court at a later date.

A man from Willits has been arrested for a domestic violence incident. Police say a 19 year old woman had been attacked by her boyfriend, 21 year old Steven White after a mutual argument. They say though that White grabbed the woman and she was afraid so she punched the man. He then drove her to the hospital because he injured her hand before she slugged him. He left the hospital so deputies put out a BOLO alert and found him later, arresting him for Domestic Violence Battery and held him on \$25,000.00 bail.

Cases of coronavirus are low in Lake County allowing the county to be in the Orange Tier in the state's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy". The Public Health Office reports 40% of the county's residents are at least partially vaccinated, the goal is 70%. The health office reports 60% of Lake County's population is not vaccinated at all. They say the county's moving in the right direction, but we've got to continue to be vigilant, wear masks, socially distance and practice appropriate hygiene. The county also has a vaccine surplus. They remind that there are appointments available for anyone over the age of 16, by registering with the state. Teens 16 and 17 need parental consent. You can call the health dept. if you can't get an appointment online.

Parts of Lake County are under Elevated Fire Weather Conditions due to dry fuel conditions not usually seen this early in the year. The Lake County Risk Reduction Authority is reminding hardening homes and communities against wildfire is urgent. The Authority says the last six years there have been fires and evacuations, member and District 5 Supervisor Jessica Pyska says pretty much all of Lake County has been personally affected by wildfire. She and District 1 Supervisor, Moke Simon, the County of Lake and the Lake County Risk Reduction Authority are hosting "Preparing for Fire Season" an online Town Hall Meeting. It's happening next Thursday, April 29th at 6pm.

FEMA is providing money for funerals that happened from January of 2020 to present times. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provide money to help. To be eligible the death had to have happened here in the United States, a death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19, you must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who had COVID-19 related funeral expenses. They will not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number Applications began April 12, 2021, call 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585, Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time to get help with the application from FEMA's representatives. Multilingual services will be available.

Early in the season and we have our first fire in Mendocino County. The Turnout Fire started yesterday and grew to 50 acres, but scanner reports last night said fire activity was dying down and the wind was calm. The fire in the 9000 block of the 253 and not near any town or structures. It's near to Boonville and Ukiah but not a threat to either. The fire is zero percent contained, with not a lot forward movement. There was no word yet how the fire may have started.

After a witness called the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, a man from Ukiah's arrested for domestic violence battery. Last Friday Derrick Ridenour was accused of attacking a woman he had been dating. He was on probation for a previous domestic violence incident and was not allowed contact with the woman and had a restraining order against him. But was apparently driving her to a family member's home and they got into an argument, where the woman says he wouldn't let her out of the car and grabbed her by her hair. He also took her phone away so she could not call 911 and choked while they were outside the vehicle. That's where the witness comes in, they were jogging by and saw the incident and called 911 and tried to get Ridenour to stop, so he did, but also took off. Deputies say the victim had visible injuries to her neck and face. Ridenour was found soon after and arrested for domestic violence battery, kidnapping, false imprisonment, violation of probation, and violation of a restraining order and booked into jail on \$110,000.00 bail.

A man from Nice has been arrested in Calpella after a high speed chase with police. The guy nearly got away but police finally caught up to Mark Andrew Nielsen early Saturday morning on various charges after a BOLO was put out for him a week and a half earlier. It all started when a deputy saw a man alone in a car duck down when they passed. The deputy noticed code violations on the car and tried to contact Nielsen with no luck as he took off. Nielsen was finally arrested Saturday for multiple crimes including reckless driving while evading a peace officer, armed in the commission of a felony, carrying an unregistered, loaded handgun and possession of both ammo and a firearm by a prohibited person. He was held on \$125,000.00 bail.

A report from the Mendocino County Sheriff saying 2020 was a “bad year” for crime in the unincorporated areas of the county. There was an uptick in the most violent crimes including murder but unlike many other areas of the country, during the pandemic, domestic violence was down. But the Sheriff says it could just be due to underreporting. Kendall’s report says there were 467 deaths in 2020, up from 333 from a year before. There were 14 murders last year, ten the Sheriff’s Office handled. Not unlike many other areas of the country during 2020, suicides were up. Overdoses were way up, but some may have been “accidental”. The Sheriff says coronavirus only accounted for a small percentage of the deaths, 35, in 2020. But so far 47 people have died from COVID19.

A Deputy DA in the Mendocino County DA’s office has been sworn in as Officer in the Air Force Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG Corps). Deputy DA Joshua Raines was sworn in Friday afternoon at the Ukiah courthouse as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. The DA’s office posted the news on their Facebook page. Judge Advocates are legal advisors to their command and can be a personal legal advisor to their commander. Raines enlisted in the Air Force just out of high school, after the 9/11 terrorist attack. He did 4 years active duty and was in the Air Force Reserve 8 more years. He was hired by the Mendocino County DA’s office last year.

The Mendocino County Health Officer says the county should be getting more Moderna and Pfizer coronavirus vaccine doses after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was put on hold due to rare complications. In his Friday press briefing Dr. Andy Coren said there were no complications locally and the ones that did happen nationally were less than one case per million vaccines. The blood clots were in women, one of which died. He says if anyone who did get the vaccine here and has a “severe headache, stomach or leg pain, and easy bruising within a month afterward should see their doctor. He did say that some positive cases have popped up in people who were fully vaccinated, 18 of them, representing less than one percent of those vaccinated and not unexpected.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is getting members lined up for their visioning forum committee. At their meeting tomorrow they will also start the interviewing process for a new Public Health Officer as Dr. Gary Pace is leaving at the end of the month. For the visioning committee they've already lined up the Clearlake Mayor and one city councilmember from Lakeport. They will fill in the rest tomorrow from a list of applicants including tribal representatives and general members of the public. The committee, you may recall is to help promote tolerance, respect, equity and inclusion in Lake County. One last bit at tomorrow's meeting is for the board to consider a use permit for a new cell phone tower project in Kelseyville.

The state is still moving along with the anticipation of a full reopening by June 15th. It does however depend on whether the vaccine supply is ample enough so that anyone over 16 who wants a shot can get it; and hospitalization rates stay low and stable. The Gov. says masks will still need to be worn, social distancing will have to be followed and other common sense protocols. It means businesses would be able to open at full capacity, depending on circumstances of individual counties; schools would be encouraged to reopen for full-time in-person learning, but individual school districts will maintain control. For reopening of higher risk events, testing or vaccination proof would be required to attend.

A presentation by PG&E for the Cobb Area Council showed what the utility company has been doing to prevent wildfires ahead of the 2021 fire season. The liaison who came to the local meeting says they installed certain devices to separate the electric grid to smaller parts so they could reduce the amount of Public Safety Power Shutoffs. They are also thinning fuels, taking down trees and taking feedback from each county's Office of Emergency Services. They are also joining forces with more than 250 community organizations to hand out info in various languages and will offer food replacement working with partner food banks and Meals on Wheels organizations.

State Sen. Bill Dodd has introduced legislation to improve high-speed broadband access. Dodd says it's been far too long that telecommunication projects have been delayed by confusing regulations and excessive bureaucracy. He says his legislation will take a step toward improving internet access immediately and ensure equity and close the digital divide. He says it comes at a time, during the pandemic, when employers and schools are doing more online work and that has shed the light on disparities of access faced by low-income families and people of color. The bill would give more access to highspeed internet and remove local discretion and build on existing laws that set timelines and reasonable fees to process and approve broadband projects.

04/20/21

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in a special meeting have tabled a vote on a Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Ordinance. If it had passed it would have meant there could be mass Cannabis growing on rangeland, up to 10% of a ten acre property, or more. So the current ordinance based system would switch to a land use permit system which wouldn't have to follow the California Environmental Quality Act. If the board does decide to make the switch before June 30th, there would instead be site specific environmental reviews required for individual applications. The board noted if they made a change, wildfire corridors would be part of the environmental review process. The board will take up the matter again at the regular Tuesday morning meeting April 27th.

A hit and run reported in Ukiah by a county car. The accident Sunday on Clara Street and the car found later damaged and abandoned. The county says the driver of the car was not a county employee and they're unsure who was driving, but believe it was a man. Scanner reports said Sunday morning a Toyota Tacoma hit another car and took off. The person who reported the crash also said they believed the driver might have a gun. A BOLO alert was issued Sunday after the report of a possible gun. There was front end damage to the car consistent with a crash into a truck that was found with materials in it that looked to be involved in marijuana trimming.

The first fire of the season in Mendocino County reported outside Boonville. The Turnout Fire has burned 200 acres after it ignited over the weekend. It's one of six fires that started in the county over the weekend. It was not reported to be threatening any structures. Cal Fire reports it was burning in steep, hard to reach terrain so they were standing by keeping a close eye on it in case conditions became bad overnight. They say they'll try to strengthen the containment lines this morning ahead of any windy conditions later in the day. The other five fires reported over the weekend didn't turn into much, only burning a couple acres each and quickly contained.

The idea of reopening the state by the middle of June is being kicked around after the governor announced his intention a couple of weeks ago. There has been word that a proof of vaccine or a recent COVID19 test might allow access to certain higher risk activities, but state health officials say it's not a vaccine passport they're considering. Some health experts say it is exactly that though, digital or paper passes so those who've been vaccinated or test negative can hit a concert, sports game or events at giant arenas. But law experts say a vaccine pass may come off better, then passport, which is a government issued document, which some say sounds like the government is mandating you get a vaccine and carry proof of it on you.

The state of Calif. is sending several million dollars for mental health services and other health care to Lake County. Lake Co News reports Partnership HealthPlan of California is getting over \$36 million from the state as behavioral health needs have intensified. Adventist Health Clear Lake is one of the providers that will receive funds, \$11 million. Partnership manages Medi-Cal benefits for nearly 600,000 members in 14 counties located in Northern California. Of the state funds they promise to distribute the money to 30 organizations. The money will also land at Sutter Health. Projects include basic behavioral health integration; maternal access to mental health and substance use treatment; medication management for co-occurring chronic medical and behavioral diagnoses; diabetes screening and treatment for people with serious mental illness.

The Governor says herd immunity against COVID-19 is not a thing. Herd immunity means a disease cannot find anymore people to infect and it finally dissipates. But the governor says he finds it a little "illusory" because there are those who won't get the vaccine. Plus he says the population of Calif. also includes children and as of right now, there is no vaccine for those under 16 years old. Plus now we have mutant strains of the virus, some of which could be resistant to vaccines. The Governor says he's heard that herd immunity is between 70-90% of the population. Some health experts say they don't expect herd immunity to happen until sometime next year.

Looking into the future with the Lake County Board of Supervisors. Last week during a special workshop, the board looked at a list of long-term priorities. Individual supervisors got the floor to present their own top priorities to the room, then there was discussion and group gathering to mull the ideas. They were sectioned into four main categories — economic development, workforce investment, community cleanup, and disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery. Some of the ideas tossed around included free preschool and community college, money for home-buying, affordable housing, cannabis tax money use for expenditures in other areas.

While the pandemic is still very much in our lives, the Lakeport City Council is considering summer community events. At their regular meeting today city staff will present the council with ideas for events in public areas this summer. The city is working with the county's health department to follow COVID19 guidelines and will look at every event's plan which has to have COVID protocols submitted too. City staff says the public health dept. thinks outdoor events can be done in a safe manner as long as community members wear masks, practice social distancing and there are hand-washing stations. Events to be considered include the Library Park Farmer's Market, Old Time Machines Car Show, Home Amateur Wine Makers Winefest, Lakeport Main Street Association Shop and Dine and the annual 4th of July event.

The Lucerne Area Town Hall takes on homelessness. At their last meeting, last Friday, advisory council members considered what to do about the unsheltered. They looked at the Home Key Project with the operations director of Elijah House who said they want to open an administrative center to help community members as well as misplaced locals. That could include housing programs, getting back to work, educational and training programs. They had a space in mind which the director says would mainly be used for their administrative offices and storage, classes and workshops GED tutoring, computer skills, interview skills, life skills and budgeting. The group also took time to talk about repairs needed at their docks on Highway 20 and heard from the Department of Public Works regarding road repairs.

UPDATE

The fire burning in Mendocino County early in the season has a little bit more containment. The Turnout Fire near Boonville which started on Sunday afternoon is now 25% contained. It didn't grow overnight from the reported 200-acres. The fire started in hot and dry weather but has not done any damage. The fire is also not near any homes or structures. Cal Fire reported the fire was quieted some last night because of cooler weather so firefighters were able to build a line around the fire, which they say is burning in hard to reach, steep, rugged terrain near Highway 253/Boonville Road.

04/21/21

Ukiah Unified Schools are offering summer school for elementary, middle, and high school students. The district says school over the summer between June 9th to July 21st will be engaging and fun. It'll be 5 days/week and open to all students with both grab and go lunches and snacks provided. For high schoolers they are offering academic intervention, credit recovery and some limited elective courses on-site at the high school or through Cyber High. The district also announced they're offering free food for all students 18 and younger each Wednesday, so today, it's between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the high school. They ask you to follow COVID19 protocols when you get the food.

A head on crash has been reported outside Willits. The California Highway Patrol reported last night they got a call to the crash about six miles north of Willits with an injured female and child who needed to be extracted from one vehicle. Dispatch sent three ambulances and two air ambulances landed on the road by the intersection of the 101 and Reynolds Highway. Part of the 101 was closed so helicopters could land. The two people who were injured were taken away by air and the Dept. of Transportation also went to the scene to clean up spilled oil.

Police from Fort Bragg got a call to a naked man on Main Street. When they got there Friday afternoon they found a man who they say seemed to be high on drugs, acting erratically. They say the man charged at them and didn't seem to have a grasp on reality. They identified him as Matthew Russell and asked for backup after he took off running. They found him nearby in a business vehicle with facial injuries after being confronted by two employees. He took off in the business van as officers took chase near a Safeway and Starbucks. They pointed a Taser at him and removed him. He was taken to a hospital where he admitted he had recently used meth. He was booked into jail, but no word what the charges were.

A man who told the Lake County Sheriff's Dispatch he killed his wife at their home in Nice has been arrested. Deputies went to the home last night and found a woman dead there. The man told deputies he intended to kill himself, he and the woman both had gunshot wounds. The man was taken to a hospital, then airlifted out of the area to another hospital. Major Crimes Detectives were requested and took over the investigation.

PG&E says they are not responsible for the 2019 Kincadee fire. In court yesterday the utility company's lawyers indicated they would fight the 20 count criminal indictment. The Press Democrat reports it was the first time in court on the case filed by the Sonoma County DA against the massive utility. The company has been charged before, in relation to the massive fires in 2017 and 2018 in Northern Calif. and of course the San Bruno gas explosion a decade ago. The Kincadee fire was found to have started by a broken piece of PG&E equipment. It sparked in the The Geysers geothermal region of the Mayacamas Mountains near Geyserville in October of 2019. Almost 200,000 residents were evacuated. The fire scorched close to 78,000 acres and destroyed 174 homes.

A new paving project to Willits High will make drop off and pickup go smoother. The school board voted unanimously last week to greenlight the project for a circle turn-around in front of the school and a road from Main Street to the maintenance building. While they were at it, the School Board also gave the go-ahead to a Roofing Project at Brookside Elementary, Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High. On a side note the Willits Teachers Association (WTA), School Board Members and Superintendent all spoke about how happy they were to be in person with students again. When they meet again next time, they're considering implementing COVID testing for students.

The Governor is part of a group of bipartisan governors who are asking the Biden Administration, as part of its fight on climate change to be sure all new vehicles sold in the country are zero-emission (ZEV), sooner rather than later. The group of 12 governors are asking for further investment in ZEV charging and fueling infrastructure. A letter was sent by the governors of Calif, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington for the federal government to set the standard that all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks would be zero-emission by 2035 and all new medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles sold should be zero-emission by 2045. It's all part of Climate Action Week. Gov. Newsom is the co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance.

As we continue to hear about drought like conditions, we have not heard any water conservation mandates, until now. The first big water agency in the Bay Area is anticipated to give the go ahead for mandatory water restrictions. It's the Marin Municipal Water District who is expected to ask their customers to limit their outdoor watering to one day/week and stop washing cars, refilling swimming pools and not to power-wash their homes. Part of a long list of don'ts the agency will mandate. Those who don't follow the rules may be fined up to \$250. The Gov. has yet to make any formal announcement on a drought emergency which would allow him to order conservation measures, while relaxing some environmental restrictions on some water sources to divert more to farmers.

A new report about the special meeting by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Monday says they received hundreds of comments. There were 400 emails and 150 comments to the board on the proposed amendments to the county's cannabis cultivation and facilities ordinances. The board met two Mondays in a row for special meetings that lasted hours. The Advocate News reports speaking to the Vice Chair, Ted Williams who said, "to turn cannabis around, we'll need an ordinance in alignment with state law and enforcement". He said the board meeting on the matter was actually to correct the policy that they now recognize won't work. And that a new process creates greater neighborhood and environmental protection, despite a misinformation campaign.

We could get back to bringing in recycling for cash if some lawmakers have their way. A bill introduced by Assemblyman Jim Wood would allow appointments at recycling centers to which you cannot do now. The Natural Resources Committee in the Assembly unanimously passed Wood's bill. He says the pandemic has made things worse and says a lack of access for redemption options especially in rural areas is practically impossible now. He says because of health protocols and the state closing down during the pandemic, many of the few redemption centers we had in those rural areas were forced to shutdown and didn't open again. In Humboldt County there's only one now and Wood says it's plagued with lines and crowds that caused traffic jams and backed up onto the highway.

Local community health centers have been spending loads of money on COVID19 testing and vaccinating, but the federal government is sending money as part of the latest stimulus package. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide one time funding over two years for health centers funded under the Health Center Program. The centers in Mendocino County who qualify include the Anderson Valley Health Center in Boonville, Long Valley Health Center in Laytonville, MCHC Health Centers in Ukiah and Willits, Mendocino Coast Clinics in Fort Bragg, and Redwood Coast Medical Services in Gualala. There are also clinics who will receive money too. Several million dollars will be spread amongst them as part of the latest stimulus, not only for protective equipment but to cover tests and vaccination efforts.

04/22/21

The Governor has announced 2 counties in a drought emergency. The declaration opens Mendocino and Sonoma counties to federal relief and means certain restrictions to protect the environment can be lifted. The Governor announced the declaration yesterday as he stood in the bottom of a dry and cracked looking Lake Mendocino. Drought conditions in the two counties is worse than elsewhere in the state, the two feed water to many local wineries and farms. The governor says there could be a wider swath of Calif. land declared a drought too in this 2nd year of critically dry conditions. The Gov. says it's historic.

California's recovering from a massive amount of coronavirus cases last summer and now has nearly the lowest case rate in the US. A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has the latest seven day rate of cases at just over 40 per 100,000 people, way less than the nationwide rate of just above 135. Hawaii just beat Calif. with 39. Then there's Michigan, with the highest seven-day caseload, 483 per 100,000 people. Following that is New Jersey at nearly 270; Delaware with 264; Pennsylvania at 248.5 and Minnesota with over 238 cases/100,000 population. California has had about 2,320 new cases/day compared to over 40,000 new cases/day this past winter.

Road trip to Big Sur... Highway 1 is reopening a week before it was supposed to after another storm related closure which buckled the highway and took a life with it. Caltrans announced the scenic route from Cambria to Carmel is opening tomorrow, but still they will have about five miles closed to through traffic. Caltrans says warmer weather helped them finish sooner. It'll give businesses time to prepare ahead of Mother's Day and the long Memorial Day weekend. The highway was closed around 70 miles north of Cambria after a landslide in a fire burn scar in January.

Land managers, scientists and fire behavior experts are taking part in an online workshop for two days to talk strategy for fire-adapted landscapes. The public is also invited to the forum next Wednesday and Thursday, "Our Future in a Fire-adapted Landscape". FireScape Mendocino is offering the workshop to consider ways to create more fire-resilient landscapes in and around the Mendocino National Forest. Topics include post-fire observations and experiences from the Ranch and August Complex wildfires, factors that influence future forests and landscapes and upcoming land management projects being proposed by the Mendocino National Forest in response to the August Complex.

The workshop is free. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/Firescape12>. Additional information about FireScape Mendocino can be found at www.mendocinofirescape.blogspot.com.

There's a new Fire Chief in Lakeport. Jeffrey Thomas was hired last month by the Lakeport Fire Protection District Board, taking over for Rick Bergem who retired. Thomas grew up in Richmond and left the state to play football on a scholarship at the University of Utah but came back to Calif after serving in the Salt Lake City Fire Department for 36 years. He's also Lakeport's first Black fire chief. Lake Co News reports he's also thought to be the first Black fire executive officer to serve in a Lake County agency. He told the news site he would camp in Clear Lake State Park as a kid and as a grownup enjoys fishing, hunting and golf.

In Lake County things are improving regarding the pandemic so the Lake County Superior Court is implementing operational changes. Lake Co News reports the Court Executive Officer says nothing's happening right away, but they're beginning to bring in more in person business soon. That includes trials in the courthouse, instead of where they're being held now, at the Lake County Fairgrounds. They will also vacate civil jury trials in May. The news site reports the court has been in contact on all the changes with the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace on public safety protocols for the court. Starting Monday there will be in person or Zoom appearances. Then in Mid-May civil and family law court trials or evidentiary hearings will be conducted in-person. Remote appearances upon request will have to be approved. They will however continue some services at the fairgrounds.

A man from Nice who police say shot his wife to death and shot himself and called for help, has died.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office reports Kenneth Lovelady shot and killed his wife Laurie Tuesday night and shot himself. They went to the home after the man called in his wife's shooting and told them he tried to kill himself too. Deputies found the woman dead already and Kenneth with gunshot wounds. He was airlifted to an out of county hospital where he died shortly after arrival. There will be autopsies conducted, but the Sheriff's office says they believe there was a domestic dispute before Kenneth shot his wife, then himself. The couple had minimal contact with their office before and no previous history of domestic disputes.

A fire that was burning outside Laytonville is fully contained. The fire reported yesterday, called the Dos Fire burned nine acres and was moving quite slow. After the fire was reported on Dos Rios Rd., firefighters said it was not threatening any structures. The Mendocino County Cal Fire Unit Chief tweeted the fire was contained yesterday but firefighters were there for cleanup. Another fire near Boonville is close to full containment. The Turnout Fire, which started Sunday was last reported at 65% surrounded after burning 200 acres.

That's a wrap for the longtime conductor and leader of the Symphony of the Redwoods. Allan Pollack is retiring as music director and conductor after 2 and a half decades at the helm. He's the artistic director of the Mendocino Music Festival and was artistic director and conductor for the Camellia Symphony Orchestra in Sacramento for a spell. He's also been a teacher for years in the Bay Area including 35 years at UC Berkeley, as well as the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Community Music Center. A search committee made up of musicians and board members will look for his replacement.

PG&E says even though the state is doing better when it comes to COVID19, they're not going to harass folks for past due payments. They have financial assistance programs until June 30th that started in March of 2020 when the pandemic first surfaced. The company says their customer protections include suspending service disconnections for those with unpaid bills, but they say for you to act now before the protections end in a couple months. The plans are for both for residential and commercial customers.

A special board meeting by the Lakeport Unified School District has been held to discuss a new superintendent as the current super, Jill Falconer is retiring. The board met someone of interest over Zoom at the meeting Tuesday night during the public comment section. The meeting May 13th, they'll decide whether or not to hire Matthew Bullard of Minnesota. He has 24 years of experience as a special education teacher, secondary and alternative school principal, and 13 years as a school district superintendent. His contract should be ratified at that May meeting.

Ukiah Unified has announced one of the teachers from Pomolita Middle School is the Regional Educator of the Year. Tiffany Chez Robinson, a Language Arts Teacher was named by the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) for Region 1. It's handed out every year for middle school educators in the state who exemplify educational excellence and have made significant efforts to implement elements of educational reform. School districts can nominate teachers, administrators, counselors, or certificated personnel.

04/23/21

Another 3 year grant has been awarded to Mendocino College for its Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program. The program's getting \$76,263/year over the next three years for underserved and underrepresented students to achieve success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) studies and careers. Mendocino is just one of about 31 Community Colleges getting the grant out of 53 who applied for it. The college says the goal of the MESA program is for academic support, transfer resources, and career exploration opportunities to help more minority students to graduate from undergraduate STEM programs.

A man from Laytonville arrested for making criminal threats while carrying a billy club. Ukiah police say Raymond Martinez was arrested for also being drunk in public and chasing employees of a Starbucks. Police say the guy held a metal club over a shoulder in an aggressive manner while chasing the employees. They say his behavior caused the employees to be "in immediate fear for their safety." Cops found him inside the Starbucks bathroom with a metal club. They say he was also there a day before, but left before police got there. He's booked into jail on \$130,000.

Cal Fire and the Tehama County Fire Dept. partnering to remind you that burn permits are required starting one week from tomorrow. On May 1st all unincorporated areas of Tehama County, except in the Capay Fire District cannot have any burns and burn permits will be needed for burns in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) of Tehama and Glenn Counties. They may also put the burn suspension in effect sooner than usual due to abnormally dry fuel conditions throughout Tehama and Glenn Counties. They urge residents to burn ASAP and check with local fire officials for burning restrictions.

After a routine traffic stop a man from Ukiah's been arrested after drugs are found in his car. The Sheriff's office pulled Joseph Hoaglin over last Sunday night after seeing he had an expired registration. The Deputy noticed a pill bottle in the cup holder and a plastic baggie. They found opioid pain pills not prescribed to Hoaglin so they searched the car and Hoaglin himself and found there was also meth and a meth pipe, plus a plastic baggie with more methamphetamine on Hoaglin. He's arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sale, transportation of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He promised to return for a court date, due to pandemic restrictions at the jail.

After a woman in Willits reported an argument that got physical, a man was arrested. Deputies reported to the home Wednesday morning and contacted the couple. Robert Campos was accused of becoming agitated and throwing the woman's personal items out of their home from a balcony. They say when she confronted him, he got physical, punching her in the face and arm, causing visible injuries. Campos was arrested for domestic violence battery and booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A record settlement for a family after an encounter with Sonoma County Sheriff's Deputies a year and a half ago. David Ward's family filed suit claiming 2 Deputies used excessive force after a chase with Ward in Nov. of 2019. The deputies were investigating a stolen car report by Ward. The deputies pulled Ward over after he got the car back and during the stop near his home in Bloomfield, he had a chokehold and had his head bashed into the side of his car. He was also tasered twice through an open window for not following commands. His family won \$2.8 million dollars this week in the case.

A woman who reported the mayor of Windsor sexually assaulted her says she never told police not to investigate. The woman reported the Mayor Dominic Foppoli in 2017, warning his fellow Town Council members about "predatory" behavior in 2013 while she was a guest at his winery. She apparently sent an email to Windsor Councilwoman Deb Fudge describing what happened at Christopher Creek Winery. She says Foppoli pushed booze on her friends who were all guests at the winery's on-site vacation home and that he pressured female employees to take off undergarments and wear togas and that he tried to remove a guest's swimsuit without permission. She now added more, telling the San Francisco Chronicle he assaulted her in a hot tub. The woman says she left out the assault allegations so it would have been more widely believed.

A massive marijuana garden has been approved near the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision even though neighbors objected. Lake Co News reports the Lake County Planning Commission gave the go-ahead for Zarina Otchkova, the owner of WeGrow to use part of her 309-acre property in Middletown for a large cannabis growing operation. She asked for several licenses, a mitigated negative declaration and a use permit to include nearly 3 dozen greenhouses. A neighbor at the commission meeting says it would be the size of 13 football fields. There were 80 letters and comments sent to the commission, one of which was from a lawyer on behalf of the Redwood Valley Pomo against its aquifer usage.

Sheet1

Those filing for unemployment up a tad from a week before again. Claims in California were up last week, but still well below 100,000 initial claims for the second week. There were about 72,000 initial claims for the week ending April 17th and 69,000 the week before. Unemployment claims in the US were at 547,000 for the week ending April 17th, down 39,000 from a week prior.

California State University and University of California say students and staff who come back in the fall will have to be fully vaccinated and prove it. The CSU Chancellor's Office announced yesterday it depends on the FDA making enough vaccines available. There are only the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines as Johnson & Johnson is on hold for the time being after reports of rare blood clots. The Chancellor's office sent an email to students and staff saying there are more than a million students in the UC and CSU system. Exemptions will be allowed for medical or religious reasons.

04/26/21

Lake County reports 50% of adults have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine, and everyone 16 and older is now eligible. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace reports they've already noted some positive changes with the county moving to the Orange Tier and the entire state, most likely moving out of the entire Blueprint June 15th. Dr. Pace says cases are at less than 6/100,000 residents and the test positivity is at 3.4%. As of Friday there were a few COVID hospitalizations and there have been no new deaths for several weeks. A reminder to stay vigilant though and wear masks. Since it's fairly stable in Lake County, the public health office will only release updates as warranted and not weekly anymore. Drive through vaccination sites will be discontinued, but Sutter and Adventist's clinics will continue along with some pharmacies.

The Ukiah Unified School Superintendent putting out a statement of gratitude for having kids back in class. Debra Kubin puts out a statement every Friday and this time thanked the City of Ukiah, Mendocino County Public Health, Mendocino County Department of Education, Assemblymember Jim Wood, Senator Mike McGuire, Ukiah Teachers Association (UTA), California School Employees Association (CSEA), Ukiah Unified Trustees, parents, grandparents, family members, and, most importantly, the students. The statement as the school year is almost over after more than a year of the COVID19 pandemic. Students 16 – 18 years old are eligible for the vaccination thru the City and County. There will be drive up vaccination clinics this weekend, but you have to call for an appointment. It is a family event, so if there are doses available, other family members in the student's household may also be vaccinated. There are no drop ins.

If you see smoke or choppers in the air, please note Cal Fire Mendocino Unit is conducting Basic Helicopter Operations and Safety (BHOS) and Air Rescue training in the areas of Lake Mendocino and Ridgewood Ranch. It's ongoing, starting today and will last until the beginning of August. They're training on various days and times of the day. They will also have classroom training at the same time to learn, then practice what they learn, in the air. They're working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They say they'll make every effort not to impact the public's use of Lake Mendocino, the trails around the lake, and any other impact to nearby homes. Any water they take from the lake will be dropped back in because of low water levels. There will also be very tight restrictions for the personal safety of firefighters and area residents.

The Ukiah Unified School District has announced summer school. They will offer it for free for elementary and middle school students for six weeks. It will be in person 5-days a week with snacks and a grab-and-go lunches provided. The camp is open to all UUSD students in current grades TK-8 and will be held at various school sites in the District. Applications are available online and need to be turned in for each child who will be going by one week from this Friday, May 7th. Space is limited. And families will be notified of availability by Friday, May 14th. For high schoolers, there will also be summer school for those identified for academic intervention, credit recovery, and they will have a limited offering of elective courses.

After a female inmate reportedly brought some Fentanyl into the Mendocino County Jail, a corrections officer had to go to the hospital for exposure. Last Friday, the Sheriff's Office reports 24 year old Dakota Johnson of Willits was arrested for several warrants and for being in possession of a controlled substance, false identification to a peace officer, and possession of a baton. After she was processed, staff brought her to the holding cell area and a female corrections deputy helped her change her clothes when the suspected drugs fell out of Johnson's clothing. She was put in the holding cell, and the corrections Deputy said she wasn't feeling well and collapsed. She was taken by jail medical personnel then to after getting NARCAN was taken to the hospital and got more doses. She was released from the hospital soon after. Johnson had additional charges added.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) are changing over tens of thousands of eligible electric customers to a Time of Use plan. That basically means there will be peak pricing from 4 to 9pm daily starting this month. It will affect as many as 140,000 residential customers. So they encourage these customers to use more energy in different hours of the day when rates and demand are lower and use renewable resources if possible, like solar and wind power. This is the first chunk of customers making the switch. Then the utility company will start to transition more customers over to the rate plan by geographical region with an eventual impact to about 2.5 million customers by 2022. In Mendocino and Sonoma, customers will get their notifications by mail starting this week and then four months in advance of the automatic transition.

Congressman Jared Huffman is joining New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts to reintroduce the Green New Deal. The deal is an idea, not legislation. It's a way to beat back global warming and create millions of high-wage jobs in clean energy industries. The original nonbinding resolution was introduced two years ago, but never went anywhere in the Republican controlled Senate. Now it's split even, with a tie-breaker vote. Congressman Huffman says the Green New Deal is inclusive of youth and communities of color and that the urgency of the crisis demands action.

It turns out the state appointment site for COVID vaccines My Turn isn't getting a lot of use. CalMatters reports the reported one stop shop for registration wasn't functioning properly from the get-go. The report says the appointments booked on MyTurn averaged about 100,000/day, but that was only around 27% of the vaccinations given each day across the state. The data come from the state Department of Public Health. The state spent \$50 million to build the site. The site is also supposed to track vaccine orders and distribution and organize volunteers to help. The report says many officials say the site isn't great at what it's supposed to do and doesn't add doses the federal government sends to pharmacies. And there are various other health care provider systems who haven't signed up or aren't integrated into the system.

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors meeting will cover their ongoing discussions on the land use ordinance regarding growing cannabis. The board will allow for public discussion once again as they did in the last special meeting a week ago. They may also waive their first reading of a new ordinance tomorrow morning at their regular meeting. There were several comments mailed into the board which are included in the board's agenda noted online at the county website. You can leave a comment online as well. There were two last we checked that said water is already being rationed due to the drought emergency. That money should be diverted to surveillance, code enforcement and law enforcement. Another comment about stopping commercial growing altogether.

A mandatory water conservation measure is being considered by the Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District and other local water suppliers in the Ukiah Valley Basin. It's because of two years of below average rainfall in the area and historically low levels at Lake Mendocino. The possible action by the water suppliers comes after the Governor's Drought Declaration and another from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on April 20th. The general manager of the Russian River Flood Control says as drought conditions worsen, now is the time to implement extreme water conservation measures at home and work. Some of that includes turning all faucets off, 5 minute showers, fixing all leaks, and letting your lawn go brown.

3 people from Humboldt County have been arrested by Mendocino Deputies near Garberville after a home invasion and assault. A man told deputies on Friday morning he was attacked by two men at his home. They were wearing masks and threatened him, pistol whipping him and forcing him to open a safe in his home. At some point he heard a gun go off after he opened the safe. When they rummaged through the safe and were distracted, he got out of the house and ran with at least one suspect running after him, who eventually stopped. He crossed an embankment and got into the river and swam, then called a family member who's also a firefighter to get help. After emerging from the river, someone helped get him to Tooby Park where firefighters and others were staged. Then he was taken to a hospital. After the story was told to deputies, the suspects were picked up and identified as Rochelle Clevinger, Wyatt Whitlow and William Mattingly.

04/27/21

2 people are reporting missing in Willits. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports being on the scene of a cannabis cultivation business in the 20000 block of Timber Road for two days. They have not said much else.

An online town hall for the Kelseyville Fire Protection District for a new fire community facilities district. The meeting is this Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. The Fire District is looking to form the community facilities district but has to follow some rules first. So right now they're in the exploratory phase to do it for more money for a new fire station on the Soda Bay corridor, a new fire engine, ambulances and salaries for staffers at the new station. They say it would be impactful, saving time to get to homeowners in the immediate area. And they say it could also mean lower insurance rates for homeowners. The whole package would be paid for with a special tax on parcels.

The Governor announced the state is sending medical equipment to India where they are dealing with a tsunami of new daily coronavirus cases. For the last few days the country has been counting over 300,000 new cases/day, the most anywhere since the pandemic first started last year. Governor Newsom says lifesaving oxygen equipment will be sent because "everyone deserves quality medical treatment against this terrible disease". The equipment is being sent with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development. The federal government has also pledged to do more to help India including sending raw materials for vaccine production, test kits, ventilators and PPE.

They're looking for people to fill seats on the Lake County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission. The commission is a panel of citizens who investigate, then recommend ideas for how the juvenile court in Lake County runs. They advocate and protect juveniles and dependent youth with continued prevention and intervention activities and services. They inspect institutions like Juvenile Hall, and the jail lockup, check in on group homes, inquire about how juvenile court works including its operations and that of the Probation Department, Social Services Agency, and any other agency involved in juvenile delinquency or dependency. Then they make recommendations thereto. Those interested have until May 20th to apply for the four year position. You can do so at the Lake County court website.

A man in the Bay Area has apparently gotten that rare side effect from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, a blood clot. UC San Francisco reports a man in his 30s developed vaccine-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenia after his single dose vaccine April 8th. He's in the hospital and will be okay. It's believed to be the first male case, as all of the others have been in women, 15 of them, between the ages of 15 to 49. On Friday a committee of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave the green light again to the vaccine which had been on pause due to the syndrome. One woman died, but the panel said the benefits outweighed the extremely rare side effect.

The Governor could lose his job after all. The Secretary of State's office says there are enough valid signatures for the recall effort to be on a ballot. The office confirmed over 1,626,000 valid signatures. They needed about 1,495,700. Counties now have to validate the signatures as well and have until Thursday to do so. There is also a one month period where those who signed the petition can ask to have their signature removed. A spokesman for the RecallGavin2020 campaign says people have been frustrated at the "destructive policies, divisive politics and manipulative tactics by Newsom since the day he became governor". The governor says Trump supporters and far right wing operatives are behind the effort. He says the recall "threatens our values and seeks to undo the important progress we've made".

Talk about unaffordable housing... the median price for a single family home is at almost \$760,000, making buying a home far out of reach for most. It's almost 6% more than it was, the last historic hike, \$717,930 in December and 24% higher than a year ago. The state Department of Finance released the latest numbers last week. Last August history was made when the median home price mark was \$700,000 for the first time ever. But there's a reason, less homes are being made and more people need a home to live in. Whether they buy or rent, there's a shortage of affordable housing. The Governor made a campaign promise when he ran for office, building 500,000 units a year. Just under 103,000 permits were approved last year.

Surrounding counties to Lake and Mendocino are seeing an increase of new COVID19 cases. Humboldt County health officials reported nearing the 3,800 case mark this past weekend. The county's public health department said a large chunk was due to super spreader events, one at a church. There was an outbreak associated with the Pentecostal Church in Eureka. The public health department is offering to test attendees. The church released a statement about the outbreak saying they had gone almost a year without an outbreak, but the virus is spreading amongst congregants. The church says they are working with public health officials for testing and quarantining and isolation.

After an 11 district beta test, the state is offering to cover any school district or charter school's cost to provide rapid Covid testing for students and staff through the summer and most likely into the fall. The state Department of Public Health is now working with a company from San Francisco for expanding testing at schools and in homeless shelters and longterm care facilities. The federal government is paying for testing costs for states and school districts and the tests are less expensive with faster turnaround times than when the Governor first proposed the idea of regular testing in schools, about \$5 instead of \$50 each.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company says the cost of their service will be lower this month due to the California Climate Credit. The California Public Utilities Commission created the credit in order to fight climate change. So bills will be nearly \$42 less for residential customers for natural gas and electric. Those who only get natural gas will receive about a \$25 credit and for those with only electric, it's be about \$17. The state sped up the credit to start sooner due to the pandemic. It happens twice a year, in April and October. The company also reminds that if you're struggling to pay, there are ways to remedy that, by calling or checking online for programs for both residential and commercial customers with past due balances.

A parent in the Konocti Unified School District wanted to honor students graduating this year, like she did last year, with banners along streetlights. The Record Bee reports mom Rachelle Sapeta organized the effort when her daughter was graduating and traditional commencement ceremonies were not allowed. So the banners feature pictures of the seniors, affixed to lamp posts along the roads most people travel on. They're located near Konocti Unified's four high schools: Lower Lake, Konocti Education Center, Lewis School, and Carle.

A man who the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says may have been involved in a series of burglaries is on the run and they want the public's help finding him. Deputies in the area of Elk after hearing the man might be there or somewhere along the coast. He's described as White, about 5'10", 180 pounds, with a red beard, last seen in dark clothing, a knit hat, carrying a dark backpack. The sheriff's office says they think he may be homeless, and traveling on foot and are asking anyone who may have seen him to call the Fort Bragg Substation ASAP.

It's been less than a year as mayor of Windsor and there's already a recall effort for Dominic Foppoli. After the San Francisco Chronicle ran a report a couple weeks ago about several women over 2 decades accusing the mayor of sexual misconduct, and even rape. None of it while mayor, but now there have been scores of calls for him to resign or be removed from office. He's reportedly been served notice of intent to recall with paperwork delivered to Windsor Town Hall. Seven women have complained about the 38-year-old winemaker, and his own brother has called for his removal from office and from their family wine making business. A campaign committee, Residents United for Recalling Foppoli reports beginning their petition effort will begin by the beginning of May.

04/28/21

It's been almost 4 years since the original cannabis cultivation ordinance was passed and with some new ideas after hundreds of public comment, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a new cannabis ordinance. Every Supervisor but one was in favor. Supervisor John Hashak, who after 8 hours of talk on the matter, wanted more questions answered, but was interrupted with the final vote.

Poring thru public comment on the supervisors agenda, you can plainly see the passion behind the various positions. Some concern about drought conditions and diverting water, but the supervisors addressed saying no water will be allowed to be pumped into legal cannabis cultivation sites. Other comments included grow sites being too close to schools and churches, a complaint in other areas of the state and indeed across the country where the drug has been legalized as medicine or for recreational use.

A man from Covelo has been sent to prison for lighting a home in Potter Valley on fire. Derek McCormack was found guilty last summer, a year after the August 2019 arson fire. He was charged with arson of an inhabited residence, which is a felony and he admitted a sentencing enhancement that the arson was perpetrated during a declared fire state of emergency. His lawyer asked instead of prison for him to get supervised probation, but the judge said no. So instead he got 9 years behind bars. Since it was a violent felony as the home had people in it at the time of the fire, he can only get 15% of his time shaved off for good behavior. He'll also have to register as a convicted arson offender.

More Cal Fire training exercises are happening in Northern Calif. This time in Red Bluff. It's not until May 4th. But for three days firefighters will get "hands on" practice to prepare for the upcoming fire season. It's an annual event, the largest in the state, the Ishi Fire Crew Exercise where 20 fire crews are evaluated on safety performance, physical conditioning, handline construction and firefighting knowledge. They prepare ahead of time for several weeks. At the actual event, fire crews have to hike in 4 miles to the incident site, construct 300' of fire line in heavy brush and deploy fire shelters under simulated emergency conditions.

A local drought emergency has been declared by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. After the Governor already declared a drought emergency last week in Mendocino and Sonoma counties, the board sounded the alarm that conservation mandates and other measures are coming. The board approved the proclamation unanimously. That means they officially ask the governor for state disaster aid and the board will be able to get federal assistance which may include a presidential disaster declaration. The move after two critically dry years. The general manager of Sonoma Water says residents should prepare to use 20% to 25% less water than they have been with formal instructions on the way.

A mistake in the paperwork for the intended recall against the Windsor mayor means it has to be filed all over again. Apparently, the filing papers didn't accurately title the mayor. The group, "United Residents to Recall Foppoli" was notified they had to refile the "Notice of Intent to Recall" using the term 'At-large Mayor' of Windsor versus the term 'Mayor of Windsor'. The town at large elected Foppoli, he was not appointed. It's the first time a mayor was voted for, it could also be the first time an elected town official is removed from office by voters. The campaign only needs 20 signatures for the recall effort.

After the CDC announced new mask guidelines for those fully vaccinated, Calif. says things will stay the same for now. The new guidance says fully vaccinated people no longer have to wear a mask outdoors "except in certain crowded settings and venues." And that fully vaccinated people mingling with other fully vaccinated people and some not vaccinated is ok outdoors. Also with the guidance was a recommendation to avoid large outdoor gatherings. With all of this, the Governor put out a statement that they're considering how to adjust the state's directive on face coverings to reflect the new information from the CDC.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has voted to approve the new cannabis cultivation permitting process with only one dissenting vote. There were some amendments after hundreds of public comments including many against the idea of environmental reviews and not the same permitting process we've had since recreational weed was first legalized in Calif. Those who are already farming look to get first crack at the process, there must be space for wildlife to pass through, the farming won't affect the long term integrity of the area being cultivated on or wreck the economy of the area. The cultivation site has to already have plentiful legal water access, and cannot be pumped in.

Two people reported missing by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. have been found dead. Yesterday the sheriff's department put out a statement they were looking for two men, then later in the day they announced charges against Christopher Gamble for murder and use of firearm during serious felony. He was just arrested a couple of days before for a couple of misdemeanor warrants and illegally growing and selling marijuana, and conspiracy. He's being held in jail without bail. The investigation continues so they're not releasing any more details related to the two missing, now dead men.

Cal Fire is banning certain types of burns and requiring permits for others. Because of the pandemic, they're asking property owners in Mendocino County who want to do residential burns to go online to get a burn permit, which is free. They also have to view an educational video and submit their application after watching. You've got to call the Air Management District ahead of your burn and have your permits printed, signed and with you while burning. Burning can only be done on permissive burn days and is prohibited on non-burn days.

[Mendocino County Air Management District <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burning-inform>](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burning-inform)

After it was canceled last year due to the pandemic, the Lake County Fair is on this year. The Lake County Fair Board voted Monday night to bring the fair back, which in the past had brought about 40,000 visitors/year. Only one board member voted the idea down due to concern about money. So it's happening this year between Thursday, Sept. 2nd and Sunday, Sept. 5th with planning to begin early next month. It will be a smaller event due to the pandemic and capacity limits. And there will be more volunteers because of financial concerns.

A final farewell in Lake County to the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace. At his last meeting to update the Board of Supervisors, they thanked him for his service and calm demeanor during the pandemic even acknowledging the challenges for him dealing with the public. The county's currently searching for a new Public Health Officer and have hired an interim officer in the meantime with Dr. Evan Bloom, who filled in earlier in the month while Pace took a vacation. Pace says there is ample vaccine supply and plenty of places to get inoculated. There was one member of the public who criticized Pace, who said he generally doesn't trust doctors or officials telling people to get a vaccine, but he was reminded the vaccines are not mandatory.

An elderly man reported missing in Sonoma County has been found in Yolo County near his burned out car. The Yolo County Sheriff's Office reports the man was found over the weekend uninjured in a remote area of southern Yolo after being reported missing Thursday last week. Some farm workers found him and say he seemed disoriented. Deputies also say they found out the man drove the burned out car to the area, they're not sure how the fire started and say they're thankful nobody was injured, and thanked community members for the help reuniting the man with his worried family.

The Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce CEO is resigning, citing continued harassment and discrimination by one of the board of directors. Sharon Davis announced her resignation by newsletter last week. The Advocate and Beacon newspapers reported the board member she was referring to was actually the Chamber's Board President, Ray Alarcon, an insurance agent from Mendocino. Davis says there was a climate of harassment and intimidation which became intolerable and added several other board members also resigned in solidarity with her. And before all of those resignations was the resignation of the former and then subsequent treasurers, supposedly also due to interactions with Alarcon.

More progress made on the reported fraud taking place in unemployment in Calif. The US Attorney's Office reported a task force on investigations and interdiction has put new safeguards in place to protect against the fraud in the future. 68 arrests have been made and 1,641 more cases are being investigated. The Sacramento District Attorney's office is leading the task force efforts saying the fraud has been astronomical. The investigation after the Gov. directed the Office of Emergency Services to work with District Attorneys and the US Attorney's Office of multiple local, state and federal law enforcement.

04/29/21

It's that time of year again for the annual burn ban in Lake County. Starting this Saturday the burn restriction is enforced in all areas of the county. That means all burn permits expire April 30th. So all open waste burning is banned, but there are always exemptions for some agricultural operations, essential control burns for fire hazard reduction projects, public safety burns, and others. For those needing a permit after May 1st, they have to call the Air Quality District and local fire department so they can inspect for safety reasons. Then an exemption permit is possible.

Mendocino County can move into the yellow minimal spread tier. The Mendocino County Public Health Dept. reports the State Department of Public Health has notified them they can move forward in California's colored tier system from orange to yellow. That means most indoor operations can resume in the county. It went into effect yesterday. The Health Officer, Dr. Andy Coren still says to stay vigilant as COVID19 is still a threat and emerging variants are in Calif. too, which are spreading more easily. He says to wear masks in public settings and private gatherings and gather outdoors when possible or in well ventilated areas. You can see all of the expanded openings and guidelines on the public health department's website.

A man reported to be drunk in public in Fort Bragg has been arrested after reports of a burglary in progress. Deputies reported to the scene last Saturday after someone called to say someone was trying to force their way into their home. They identified Nicholas Pollard as the suspect and damage to the garage door of the home. A police dog sniffed around, finding the guy had escaped to a nearby property. Pollard surrendered. Besides being drunk, Pollard was believed to have heroin on him. He was arrested after being positively id'd by the attempted burglary victim and charged with attempted first degree burglary and looting during a declared emergency. He's held on \$50,000.00 bail.

A man from Fort Bragg has been arrested after being found with drugs in his car while on parole. Deputies say Shalom Lewis was in what they believed to be a suspicious vehicle with damage to it. It had an open door in someone's driveway. When deputies contacted the guy, they found he was on parole for a burglary. They saw several hypodermic syringes and a small amount of a crystalline substance they thought might be meth. He was placed on a parole hold and charged with committing a felony while on pre-trial release for pending felony and held in jail on \$75,000.00 bail.

A man in Fort Bragg has been arrested after a disturbance was reported Monday. Deputies say they got a call early that morning to a man attacking another man with a knife. They found Miguel Carrillo-Palomar had attacked a 21 year-old with a large kitchen knife. The victim reportedly found an object to defend himself and hit Carrillo-Palomar back several times, stopping the attack. Deputies found the knife and arrested Carrilo-Palomar for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and booked him into jail on \$30,000.00 bail.

Joining Mendocino County before it, it looks like Sonoma County may be able to lift more coronavirus safety protocols in the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The Press Democrat reports transmission is down in the county, enough so to qualify for the yellow tier. But we won't know for sure until next Tuesday when the state announces any changes. And if approved, it won't happen until May 12th, as the county needs to have lowered case numbers stable for a two week period of time. Mendocino was one of only four counties to move to yellow this week. It means bars not serving food can reopen indoors at 25% capacity, wineries, breweries and distilleries that don't serve food can move up to 50% capacity, but restaurants have to stay at 50% indoor capacity. Much more too, check the state or county's public health website for all of the info.

After a meeting of the Windsor Town Council, without the mayor, they're considering using a rare civil grand jury proceeding to oust him. A campaign has also been launched to remove Mayor Dominic Foppoli after a damning report in the San Francisco Chronicle about sexual harassment and rape allegations. The council has reportedly directed the town's lawyers to look into the grand jury idea and if it's doable, send a letter to the state Attorney General's office to request a grand jury investigation. The Press Democrat reports legal experts say it could be challenging to move forward this way, it wouldn't expedite his removal from office. Foppoli is also under a criminal investigation by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office which includes the state Attorney General's Office.

In a strange reversal of family dynamic regarding health insurance, lawmakers are considering allowing adult children to add their parents as dependents onto their health plans. The idea to help residents moving towards retirement. Assemblyman Miguel Santiago's bill passed its first committee hearing Tuesday. Those who support the idea include the state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. They say it'll save money for families, but business groups say adding older Californians to large group policies will drive up premiums. The bill does have some limitations for eligibility. Parents would have to meet what the IRS defines as a dependent, like having to rely on their children for at least 50% of their support.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has approved moving state disaster recovery money to pay for housing in Clearlake and Lakeport. Lake Co News reports the 2018 Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Multi-Family Housing Program is for low- to moderate-income multifamily housing units after a loss of shelter after the 2018 Mendocino Complex fire. The county can get nearly \$7,600,000 dollars and the city of Lakeport can get another \$2,400,000. But since the county doesn't have an affordable housing program or associated policies and procedures they can't tap the funds. But cities can tap the money.

A small dog has been saved from a fire in Ukiah. Firefighters on the scene Tuesday and say they found a small dog laying on the floor, looking lethargic and limp. They brought the animal outside and gave it oxygen thru a mask generally used on infants. Police took the dog to a vet and heard it will be okay. An 86 year old woman living in the home reportedly found the fire in a closet. The home is in the middle of being remodeled. She's a family member who was staying there during the construction work and opened the closet, finding flames and ran outside. There was just minor damage to the home. Fire officials say it did not appear to be suspicious and might have been connected to the remodel.

The city of Ukiah has hired an outside company to investigate the arrest of a man reported to be naked and tasered and hit by police. Witnesses took video of the arrest April 1st of Gerard Magdaleno. It could take several months to conclude the investigation. The DA's office says no charges will be filed against the man until all of the work is done to investigate the arrest. Independent Investigative Consultants are doing the internal affairs investigation for the city. The police chief says there is no other investigation being done and all inquiries should go to the City Attorney's office. Ukiah police reported Magdaleno seemed to be high on drugs. They arrested him for public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting an officer by force. Family members had said he had mental health disorders.

A man charged for the death of a Northern California woman has been arrested for a fire that merged into the LNU Complex last summer. Police say Victor Serriteno of Vacaville set the fire to cover up a crime, but two people other ended up dying. The Solano County DA reported murder and arson charges are being added to other crimes Serriteno was already jailed for connected to the death of Priscilla Castro whose burned body was found last Sept. near Lake Berryessa. She disappeared last August after a date with Serriteno who she met online. The fire that started was named the Markley fire. It began near where Castro's body was found then merged into two others that eventually became the LNU Lightning Complex which killed six and destroyed around 1,500 homes and other buildings.

Fort Bragg police are getting new devices that shoot out a rubber band to tie a person up. The Taser 7 shoots off sparks too as a distraction. Fort Bragg police say it's a way to de-escalate a situation before it becomes violent. The meeting with police officials and the city's Public Safety Committee was over Zoom yesterday. Questions included what police should do in a situation such as in Minneapolis, where George Floyd was killed, or in the alleged attack on a mentally ill and naked man arrested in Ukiah earlier this month. They said they went through a lot of extra training and maintain a culture of de-escalate whenever possible. They also banned choke holds last year and are trying to educate locals about the danger of white nationalists.

A statewide moratorium on evictions expires by summer in Calif and it doesn't look like lawmakers are considering another extension. The Advocate newspaper reports the original eviction moratorium's author, David Chiu of San Francisco says he's not sure there's an appetite for another moratorium, at the same time, he doesn't think lawmakers want to see a "wave of mass evictions." The newspaper reports the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is urging the Governor and lawmakers to let cities and counties make up their own minds about eviction moratoriums. And the California Apartment Association is reportedly investigating if another extension is needed. They're the state's most powerful landlord lobbying group.

04/30/21

There's been a small, ultralight airplane crash in Ukiah. The Sheriff's Office says they got a call about the crash by the south boat ramp at Lake Mendocino and when they got there, they immediately found the pilot. They say the 71 year-old man was about 600 yards east of the south boat ramp on exposed land near the decreased lake water level. He had taken off from the Ukiah Municipal Airport, headed to Potter Valley, but about ten minutes after takeoff, the plane began having engine trouble and lost power. The pilot crash landed into the lake and he escaped with only minor injuries. He said no to medical treatment on the scene. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, the Sheriff's Office and the Army Corps of Engineers were all on the scene.

[OptumServe's sites in Lakeport and Lower Lake are opening 5 days a week. They offer free CO'](#)

A man from Willits has been formally charged with murdering two men who were reported missing. The DA's office says they've charged Christopher Gamble for killing Ulises Andrade Ayala and Anwar Ayala and for animal abuse for intentionally maiming, mutilating, torturing, or wounding chickens. It comes after deputies first reported a suspicious double missing persons case on a cannabis grow in Willits. The next day two bodies were found where they supposedly vanished. Gamble will be arraigned May 11th.

It looks like all of the paperwork is now in order for the proposed recall of Windsor Mayor Dominic Foppoli. A petition drive's paperwork was refiled yesterday and accepted by the Town Clerk as valid. The mayor has been accused by several women of sexual assault or harassment. He claims he's innocent so he's not resigning. His own brother, who he works with at their family winery, has also called for him to step down there. He's the first mayor at large who was elected in Windsor and could be the first removed by voters. Those trying to get him recalled have 120 days to gather signatures from 20% of Windsor's 16,879 registered voters or 3,376 signatures.

A badge pinning ceremony has honored new and old firefighters in Lakeport. The Lakeport Fire Protection District promoted three firefighters to Captain, they are Captain/Paramedic Odell Landers, Captain/Paramedic Jordan Mills and Captain/Paramedic Spencer Johnson. Then new Firefighter/EMT Sean Thomas was pinned, but new Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Reisbeck could not be at the ceremony. The two new firefighters started work last year.

A fire has broken out in Lower Lake and another controlled burn escaped near Scotts Valley. The first in Lower Lake has been dubbed the Sky Fire, it started around lunch time yesterday around the area of Morgan Valley Road and Sloan Ranch Road. The fire was reported around five to seven acres when it was first spotted near a large cannabis business. The Sheriff Brian Martin posted online that it was burning in a mostly rural area and no homes were threatened. Later into the night it was reported at 45 acres and 50 percent contained. The escaped control burn near Scotts Valley was about 2-3 acres.

[Residents in Lakeport are being reminded to get ready for wildfire season and clear defensible s](#)

Calif. lawmakers are looking at putting billions into drought relief. Democrats in the Senate have drafted a \$3.4 billion proposal to help with drinking water, save endangered wildlife and replenish parched land. The last drought was about the same amount of money spent, and it was during the recession years of 2012 to 2016. The snowpack this year was historically low, less than half of normal in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Nearly \$300 million would be for fish and wildlife and buying back water from farmers to return it to the Sacramento and San Joaquin river delta. Another one billion to pay off unpaid water bill debt because of the pandemic. Other money to truck emergency water in, pay for sensors and gauges to measure snow and rain and money to homeowners to replace grass.

Speaking of the drought, the town of Mendocino, already in a stage three water shortage will look at possibly moving to stage four, which means mandatory 40% water reduction allotments for all users. The Mendocino Community Services District Board is considering the issue at a meeting Monday where they're expected to raise that drought level. The town has only had a sprinkling of rain this year, 18 inches or so, that's less than half of average though. The district was in stage 4 last year too because of less than average rainfall. The pandemic and no tourism helped well levels last summer, but they don't expect the same this year due to the number of vaccinations going up.

A bunch of people have shown up to City Hall in Fort Bragg, rallying for changes planned at Jackson Demonstration State Forest, namely logging. About 150 people were there including representatives from the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians; local conservationists, the Mendocino Trail Stewards and others from Earth First!, they're reportedly considering a tree-sit in the forest. The groups reportedly looking to change how the State Forest is managed, instead of demonstrating logging techniques, they want more earth friendly ideas put forth, like showing how redwood forests can hold carbon and the added value of health for the local and global environment. They also want planned timber harvests next week to be called off or delayed at the very least.

The US Drought Monitor says the extremely dry conditions continue to spread. The latest drought map puts all of Lake County and all but a small part of Mendocino county in that extreme category. The dry conditions have the town of Mendocino thinking about raising its water shortage alert to level 4. That could mean more restrictions. It's up for discussion at a meeting of the Mendocino Community Services District Board on Monday.

The Lake County unemployment rate is looking better. According to the state, the march rate was 7.9 percent—down from 8.3 percent in February. The county number is better than California's overall rate of 8.3 percent. There are still pockets of high unemployment rates within Lake County. In the city of Clearlake, it is at almost 17 percent. Overall, just over 29,000 people had jobs in the county in March. That is a slight increase from February.

The Lake County Risk Reduction Agency is holding a RESCHEDULED virtual meeting about the upcoming fire season next week. That town hall was planned for the 29th, but it will now happen next Thursday, May 6th, at 6 PM. You can take part via Zoom, watch on Lake County PEG TV or on the Lake County

Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

The Lake Area Planning commission is looking for feedback updating both the Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan for the Lake County area. The plan update will cover projected needs in areas like streets, highways, bicycle facilities, and transit over the next 20 years. Due to the pandemic, public comment will be virtual, with an interactive website you can use to add your thoughts. That site is Laeapc.Mysocialpinpoint.com/

05/03/21

The Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) are being updated by the Mendocino Council of Governments. They are looking for public comment on transportation needs, deficiencies, and mobility barriers/challenges. It's a long range planning document, covering 2 decades. In it are both short and long range transportation projects across all modes of transportation, including motorized, non-motorized, and public transit. They say it is to also promote a safe and efficient transportation system, and will establish regional goals to support mobility, economic, and health aims of the region. They hope to complete and adopt it before the end of this year.

Please visit MCOG's website to take the online survey and access interactive tools:

<https://www.mendocinocog.org/regional-transportation-plan-rtp-active-transportation-plan-2022-1>

For more information, call the MCOG office at 707-234-3434, consult the agency's web site at www.mendocinocog.org or email lillard@dbcteam.net.

[It's Wildfire Preparedness Week so Cal Fire and their partner agencies are trying to raise awareness](#)

It's Mental Health Awareness Month. In Lake County, the Behavioral Health Services Dept is highlighting #Tools2Thrive. Mental Health Awareness Month started by Mental Health America in 1949. The last year has presented many obstacles and challenges due to the global pandemic. The Behavioral Health Services Dept. is reminding what we can all do in our daily lives to prioritize mental health, gain resiliency, and continue to cope with whatever life throws our way including a healthy lifestyle. The agency says that could help prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, anxiety and depression, and physical health conditions like diabetes and heart disease.

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

The first local case of the Brazilian strain of coronavirus has surfaced in Sonoma County. The public health dept. says it's up to twice as transmissible as earlier strains of the disease. It's known as the P.1 variant. As of last Friday, there were over a dozen infections linked to the Brazil, U.K. and West Coast variants, 6 more than 2 weeks ago. There have also been 60 COVID-19 cases in individuals already fully vaccinated. The county public health agency says the variants of concern were expected and should not be cause for alarm, because right now, it's a small number. It all comes as the county is expected to move to the yellow, less transmissible tier in Calif.'s reopening blueprint.

Tens of thousands of California inmates, including violent and repeat felons can get out of prison early. The state corrections office reports 76,000 will get an opportunity to leave prison to ease the prison population. It includes over 63,000 inmates convicted of violent crimes who are now eligible for good behavior credits. It's a third of their sentence being shaved off, instead of a fifth. There are 20,000 inmates serving life sentences with the possibility of parole included in the massive group. The corrections dept. says it's as a reward for inmates who are trying to improve themselves. But, those against the move say it's a danger to society.

After three search warrants were served in the Island Mountain area, a massive illegal marijuana grow was revealed. Last Thursday, wildlife officers from the state Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) served two search warrants in Mendocino and Trinity counties. Scientists from the agency along with officers from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and the State Water Resources Control Board were also at the sites looking for illegal cannabis cultivation and environmental crimes. More than 17,000 plants were ripped from the grow where agents and deputies found multiple environmental violations including illegal water diversion, loads of debris and trash and pollutants harmful to fish, plant life, mammals and birds. Two people were detained with paperwork going to the Mendocino County District Attorney's office for possible charges.

More than 3.5 million dollars is going to the City of Ukiah from the California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening program for an extension to the Great Redwood Trail. Two more miles will be added on the south side from Airport Park Blvd to Taylor Lane. With this money there will be a new bike path along with native plants and reclaimed water for irrigation. After it's all done, this trail section, which is in Ukiah, will cover about four miles from Brush Street to Taylor Lane. The city says it's working with North Coast Opportunities for both volunteer and CA Conservation Corps staff who will provide education, job training, and community engagement. The city manager says it will be a short and long term boost to the economy with jobs and tourism, plus increased property value along the once neglected corridor.

A mural is bringing life to an area of Upper Lake. Muralist Shane Grammar and the Hope Thru Art Foundation along with the family of Vanessa Niko are working with young artists in Upper Lake through this Wednesday. The mural will be a likeness of Vanessa Niko, a former member of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake who died 4 years ago at the hands of a former partner, and the father of her children. Lake Co News reports organizers for the mural say she is a missing and murdered indigenous woman "sister" because of being a victim of domestic violence. For the project, young artists from Lake County are invited to take part in the project to promote awareness for missing and murdered indigenous women like Niko. The mural will be dedicated Wednesday.

[For further information on this national epidemic of violence against indigenous women, go to ww](#)

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will take up the county vision document. In their standard Tuesday morning meeting over Zoom and on the county's Facebook page, they'll discuss "Vision 2028: Reimagining Lake County, Ten Key Priorities to Build a Brighter Future." The County Administrative Officer Carol Huchingson's report to the board says there was nothing stated in the plan for disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery. So they will consider that tomorrow along with separating the Community Development director's job and offer several proclamations.

The UK variant of COVID19 has landed in Mendocino County. On Friday the Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren announced they got notice in the state's surveillance testing that the B117, the UK strain had been confirmed last month. Dr. Coren says it's 50-percent more transmissible, and more virulent. He also called it a serious threat and is urging all individuals who have not been, to get the vaccine. He also said there had been some, so called break-through cases, of those who have been fully vaccinated, but that doesn't mean it's not ineffective to get the shots. He says the case numbers were actually less than expected, 17 people, not 1,500, which would match the 95% effective rate.

The Public Health Officer, Dr. Andy Coren is calling the surfacing of a strain of coronavirus from overseas a serious threat. The UK B117 strain has been confirmed in state surveillance testing in Mendocino County. He also mentioned a handful of so-called "break-through" cases in people fully vaccinated, but says they are hardly anything compared to clinical studies showing 95% efficacy. So he says they're not even being called breath-through's, instead they're known as 'postvaccine infections.' None of those infected had to be admitted to the hospital, none died, and few had any symptoms. Dr. Coren also addressed the return after a short pause of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Coren says those getting a vaccine have a choice of which one they take. He says the vaccine supply should be going up, but there are less people getting inoculated.

As we enter the second year of critically dry weather in Calif. new drone photos show the 2nd largest reservoir in Calif., Lake Oroville, severely impacted. Pictures captured by photographer Justin Sullivan a week ago showed the lake was only 42% full, half the normal average for this date. The dam the tallest in the US, catches water from the Feather River watershed. It's a major part of the State Water Project which includes 21 dams and 701 miles of pipe and canal that goes from Northern California to the south. Last week, the largest reservoir in the state, Shasta Lake was also very low, at 51% full, or 59% of its historic average for this date.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company wants students to apply to their Foundation's Better Together STEM Scholarship Program. The Foundation is putting \$250,000 into a fund for students who want to get a degree in STEM disciplines, that's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. There are 20 scholarships of \$10,000 each and 20 more for \$2,500 each. Students will get the awards based on academic achievement, demonstrated participation and leadership in school and community activities and financial need. The deadline to apply is June 1st.

05/04/21

Mendocino Deputies say they've arrested a woman from Covelo for being armed and possessing drugs. Last Thursday a patrol deputy conducted a traffic stop, finding Raven Young in the driver's seat. The deputy searched her car finding a loaded .40 caliber pistol in a backpack. The backpack was in the passenger area along with a glass meth pipe and a baggie of meth. She was arrested but released due to the pandemic. Her charges include possession of loaded firearm in public, possession of controlled substance while armed with loaded firearm and possession of controlled substance.

A man from Ukiah's been arrested on a warrant for a robbery and burglary. Deputies served Reginald Faber, III with the warrant Friday evening at a home on South Oak Street. He was taken into custody without a problem and booked into jail on \$200,000.00 bail.

A town councilwoman from Windsor who says the mayor sexually abused her has reportedly sent a letter to his lawyer warning him not to release any potentially compromising videos of her. The Press Democrat reports Councilwoman Esther Lemus said she was assaulted by Mayor Dominic Foppoli after he slipped drugs into her drinks at his winery and another time. She says Foppoli told her the camera at his winery in the tasting room recorded them. She reported it to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. Foppoli has been accused by 6 other women of sex crimes and a recall effort to oust him from office has also started. The state Attorney General's Office has taken over the case after the Sonoma County DA recused her since Lemus is a deputy district attorney.

Caltrans warning to be mindful as they begin a 6 month long project along the 101 to replace culverts. The work is on an 8-mile stretch of the freeway in northern Sonoma County so there will be one-lane closures between Dry Creek Road in Healdsburg and Canyon Road in Geyserville. Caltrans reports the 25 culverts have reached the end of their useful life. The work is being done overnights Sunday through Thursday, from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. with one mile long lane closures.

A couple hundred people losing their jobs with Kaiser Permanente as operational changes eliminated the positions in Northern California. The company sent a statement about being one of the largest employers in the state of Calif. But Kaiser is cutting positions at the same time. They informed the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West so they could help them find other work. But some union workers say that's not true, and they just found out last week. Kaiser says they told the unions before informing employees and union leaders asked for a delay.

As summer approaches both Clearlake and Lakeport are planning some before times events but keeping the pandemic top of mind. Lake Co News reports both cities are starting summer and fall event planning as the state plans to fully reopen by mid-June. Clearlake is looking to restart their July 4th celebrations after a drive-in event last year. There was no parade or festival due to the pandemic. In Lakeport they've also decided to have their Independence Day celebrations this year and are also adding back the Lake County Farmers' Finest downtown farmers markets on Tuesdays in Library Park amongst other events.

The FCC wants residents to report back to them on their Speed Test App about broadband speeds, or the lack thereof. They're doing a Broadband Data Collection to show network performance. The agency says it's to close the gap between "digital haves and have nots" and are working to build a comprehensive, user-friendly data set on broadband availability. They say the speed tests they're collecting will help them provide improved coverage and show where broadband is actually available across the country. You can find the app in the Google Play Store for Android devices, and in the Apple App Store for iOS devices.

A campaign has launched to help keep Governor Newsom in office. The recall petitions turned up enough signatures for a recall to be on the ballot to oust Newsom. There are also several candidates already lined up, not unlike when former Democratic Governor Gray Davis was recalled and scores of folks were on the ballot, and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger won. The California Democratic Party is behind the effort to keep Newsom in office, conducting a launch party of sorts on Zoom. A political consultant to the Gov. called it a kick-off of the anti-recall campaign.

Wasted doses of the coronavirus vaccine reported after about three months of inoculating the masses. The worst offenders, CVS and Walgreens. Of the nearly 183,000 wasted doses, CVS was responsible for almost 50%, then Walgreens at 21%. The data from the CDC shows there were more wasted doses of the hard to store Pfizer vaccine, which needs to be kept at below freezing temperatures. It represented 60% of the wasted doses. CVS says almost all of the waste happened during the rush to rollout the vaccine during the Trump administration who wanted to get residents and staff members of long-term care facilities shots first. Walgreens didn't specify why its doses were wasted.

The Ukiah offices for the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County are moving. The building they're in has been used as a rental, but now at its 25th anniversary they're moving to self-owned quarters at 275 W. Gobbi St. in late May. They were apparently able to purchase the building thanks to a large gift from the T.R. Eriksen Foundation. The Executive Director for the Centers says it's a more welcoming space. They are also in the midst of raising another \$50,000 to remodel some of their projects and received an anonymous pledge of \$5,000. They have been helping about 500 clients/year and also have an office in Fort Bragg.

A 45 acre outdoor classroom in Ukiah as part of the public school district has reopened. The Daily Journal reports the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project has reopened for the first time in more than a year, due to the pandemic. The newspaper reports their Outdoor Education Specialist was on site since March of 2020 for upkeep, but they were not offering any classes. The final class last March was from Calpella Elementary, and the same teacher was the first class back too. The land has been cleared too for fire safety. And students who return are reminded about public health safety measures.

It's a sellers' market along the Mendocino Coast. The Daily Journal reports fewer houses are under construction due to the pandemic and rentals are hard to come by. The newspaper reports speaking to area realtors who say there are two main reasons for the booming market, more remote workers coming from the Bay Area with loads of money, and those living along the coast for a while, have no intention of leaving. And for those renting, more vacation rentals has made finding a place a real challenge.

Folks living in the mobile home community of Little River called The Woods, are reportedly banding together to become a cooperative. The residents own their homes, but not the sites, they rent those. They were informed their community was for sale and that might mean higher rents. They're located across from a 55+ community of apartments and near the airport in a forested area, also near a golf course, historic cemetery and the Little River Inn which was built in the 1850's. The Woods is expected to be sold this month as it's on the open real estate market.

05/05/21

A dad and his two kids out in the surf in Fort Bragg had to be rescued after being swept further out to sea by a wave at Pudding Creek Beach. Police say witnesses saw the family stuck and swam out to them on surfboards and brought them back to shore. Mendo Fever reports a resident said she saw police, deputies and a couple of ambulances at the beach.

A quarantine has been called on mussels being harvested by recreational sport harvesters from the ocean shore of California. The quarantine area is from the Oregon border south to the Mexican border, including all bays, inlets, and harbors. The state says it's to protect the public health because this early in the season the mussels may contain naturally occurring toxins which can be highly poisonous to humans. Shellfish sold by certified harvesters or dealers are frequently tested. It can be used or sold as bait under certain conditions and marked that it's unfit for human consumption. And only white meat from clams and scallops should be used for human consumption. All of this effective from May 1 through October 31, 2021.

A woman in Redwood Valley accused of violating her probation has been arrested, but not booked into jail. The sheriff's dept. reports contacting Shayla Guerrero, and a passenger and checked the driver's records finding her to be on active formal probation. While chatting with her they found she had drug paraphernalia in the car. So they searched the car and found three pipes commonly used to smoke meth. She's additionally charged with felony violation of probation and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Due to the pandemic Guerrero was allowed to leave with a promise to return to court at a later date.

Willits City Council working on the next budget unanimously approved a set of goals. The Willits News reports the council had several workshops with a consultant where each council member said what they'd like to achieve. There was also public comment on the list which ended up as about a dozen high ranking goals. They include updating the City's General Plan for future development within 3-5 years, come up with a long-range Fiscal Sustainability Plan, maintain a Public Safety Agency to keep the community safe, maintain and improve infrastructure, come up with a plan for new housing construction, economic development for a strong business sector, one day becoming an Environmental Model City and a new City Street Improvement Program.

Some politicians and public health experts in Calif. say the plan to beat the pandemic needs to be more transparent. A new report shows as COVID19 cases surged this past year it overwhelmed the public health system which was challenged by collecting basic information on patients' ethnicities, occupations and exposure to others, so the true impact from the virus is still unknown. Lawmakers, epidemiologists and academics are equally critical of the state's response after 60,000 deaths and over 3.6 million infections and agree it should be further reviewed.

The new US Sen. for California, Alex Padilla is proposing a sweeping bill to expand protection of public lands and rivers. Padilla says his package of three bills, which already passed the House, will help fight climate change and guard natural treasures from harm. The proposal will designate almost 600,000 acres of new wilderness, nearly 600 miles of new wild and scenic rivers and add to an existing national monument by more than 100,000 acres. Sen. Dianne Feinstein is co-sponsoring the bill. Padilla was appointed by the Gov. to fill the seat once held by now Vice President Kamala Harris.

Health officials say anxiety, not something in a vaccine is causing reactions in some people in California and four other states after receiving their coronavirus vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is noting the phenomenon, which is not new and has been on the books for decades following several other vaccines, people panic when they're about to get an injection of any sort, and that anxiety can cascade into a physical reaction. The authors of the CDC report from clinics in California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa and North Carolina came from interviews with, and reports by, clinic staff showing some people fainted, got dizzy, nauseous or vomited. Some also had racing hearts, chest pain or other symptoms, but none of them became seriously ill. All got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The Governor is trying to get hard to reach rural residents vaccinated. He's also trying to figure out what to do about vaccine hesitancy in hard hit communities. So there's a new campaign of community outreach with appointment help, neighborhood canvassing, phone banking and text banking; at-home vaccinations and transportation services. The effort being funded with \$33 million more for a total the state has spent on the effort in the \$86 million dollar range. Around 60 percent of eligible residents had at least one dose of a vaccine by April 15th.

You might be able to get a gift card if you get a COVID19 vaccine. The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren told the Board of Supervisors yesterday the county may start to offer incentives to get more people vaccinated to reach the last holdouts. Dr. Coren says there's more urgency right now due to the variant strains that have turned up in the county. He told the board about the case of a county resident infected with the B117 variant from the U-K. He says it was in one family and there was no community spread. There are also more than 2 dozen cases of a Calif. strain that were confirmed between January and March. He says that one is less transmissible than the UK variant (which is 50 percent more transmissible), but still 20 percent more than the original one.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors looking to hire a new Community Development director by splitting the way a couple of budget categories are classified. Lake Co News reports on the unanimous decision on a resolution for the planning budget unit to include the Community Development director classification. Last year, the board combined the Community Development Department with Public Works and Water Resources. At the same time the board appointed Scott De Leon to be the director of Community Development. He was already overseeing Public Works and Water Resources, but now the Community Development director budget classification has been eliminated from the planning budget unit. So, the Community Development Director will only oversee his one department.

A new set of streetlights have been put in on State Street in Ukiah. The new lights on State Street from Henry to Perkins are part of the Downtown Streetscape Project. They're still installing sidewalks and gutters and the new lights are not connected quite yet. The project includes some street closures over the next weeks as there's excavating and other major construction continuing. Look for closures in the 100 block of West Church Street in the next couple of weeks, new sidewalks just before Memorial Day and for a few weeks beyond. There will also be newer traffic signals on sensors instead of timers.

The Ukiah City Council has to decide what to do about accumulating algae in the new purple pipe project. Staff is recommending an expenditure of over \$175,000 on a so-called "buoy-array" system which they say has been successful in similar systems in southern Calif. where recycled water is stored. High nutrient content and the local climate can impact the water quality, forming algae which can clog filters or irrigation equipment. And the system is currently being treated with chemicals and not been effective. The buoy system would use sonar which would not hurt aquatic organisms including birds and water fowl.

05/06/21

Reports of shots fired got Ukiah Police out on the westside. The report Sunday around midnight, according to Mendo Fever. But police say they couldn't find any evidence of gunshots that night, but got reports from Low Gap Road to North Oak Street and "as far south as Pomolita School." The news site reports police were out in the area looking for casings or damage, to no avail, and nobody who reported hearing the shots, saw anything.

After doing their entanglement assessment of marine life, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife decided commercial crabbing could go on, but with some restrictions. The assessment to find if Humpback whales had started to come back to Northern Calif. from winter breeding. They've been sighted offshore in Central Calif, but mostly out of fishing grounds. So the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife said there can be crab fishing at only 30 fathoms, or about 180 feet depth in Fishing Zones 1 and 2 (Oregon state line to the Sonoma/Mendocino county line). The agency says that will help minimize entanglement risk in those Fishing Zones.

After hundreds of crashes on the 101 in both Mendocino and Humboldt counties, the CHP's Golden Gate Division are trying to change that. There were 1,740 crashes between 2018 and 2019 including over 600 injuries and the deaths of 36 people. The patrol says the main reasons were speed, reckless driving, unsafe lane changes, unsafe turning movements, following too close, distracted driving, and driving under the influence. More injuries and deaths happened they say, due to seat belt violations. So the CHP is promoting awareness and safe driving in the two counties with beefed up patrols. A statement says they will focus on public education which they feel will help contribute to improved safety for motorists on the highway.

After a traffic stop in Ukiah, a deputy arrested a man from Florida for having a ghost gun and on drugs and drinking while driving charges. The driver was identified as Anthony Fortner of Boca Raton. When the deputy approached, he says the driver got out, walked to the passenger side and seemed nervous and like he didn't want the deputy to come near the driver side. But when the passenger opened that door, the deputy spotted a bunch of opened containers and admitted to drinking in the car. There was also some processed marijuana and a handgun without a serial number, known as a "Ghost Gun". So Fortner was arrested for having a loaded unregistered firearm and released due to pandemic jail restrictions. The passenger was also released.

The Gov. gets some help from the courts, getting his emergency powers reinstated. A lower court ruled Gov. Newsom's use of emergency powers for far-reaching pandemic policies were overstepping, but appellate judges tossed that. The 3 appeals court justices unanimously agreed the lower court judge, erred and it was not unconstitutional use of legislative power. The lower court ruling by a judge in Sutter County who said the Gov. unconstitutionally usurped the Legislature's power. The case brought by a group of Republican lawmakers.

A man in Gualala has been arrested for beating on his girlfriend. The sheriff's office reports arresting Stephen Ainsworth from Bartlett, NH after reports by a woman that her boyfriend got upset and slapped her across the face and tried choking her. Deputies say the woman had injuries consistent with her story so Ainsworth was arrested in a travel trailer on the same property. He was charged with domestic violence battery and held on \$25,000.00 bail.

Two people from Nice busted with a bunch of guns, ammo and drugs. The Sheriff's Dept. reports stopping a car in Redwood Valley, finding a man with an 18 year old woman, Brandon Maxfield and Avril Wright. They found Maxfield was on probation so searched the car, but before that they were told there was a firearm and percocet pills. A Glock pistol was also found, it had been stolen prior to the stop. The two were arrested on multiple charges including having meth and paraphernalia, possessing drugs while armed, having a stolen gun, and violating probation. Maxfield was held on \$25,000 bail and Wright on \$15,000.

Fort Bragg police report getting a call to someone experiencing mental distress. They say they've been working with Redwood Quality Management Company on calls for service, this one was last Friday. Officers say the person seemed confused and unstable so they contacted Redwood for help and within 15 minutes a crisis worker was sent to help police. The person was placed on a mental health hold and the officers helped get them to a Hospital E.R. The police department says this call was an indication of how they are allocating resources to improve the safety of the community and that the goal of the Fort Bragg Police Department is to continue their partnership with Redwood to provide resources, care, and treatment to service calls to individuals living with mental illnesses.

It's "CalFresh Awareness Month." The program also known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, helps the needy with monthly food and provides economic benefits to the community. As you may know those using CalFresh get a card, like a debit card, to use at a grocery store or farmer's market. They report after the pandemic an expanded need for their food benefits. In Lake County, they've helped over 12,700 individuals at a cost of \$2.7 million/month. You can apply now if you're in a very low income household. You might be able to access benefits within 3 days.

To apply anytime visit www.getcalfresh.org, or call (707) 995-4200 Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm for information on other ways to apply.

A light airplane that crashed into Lake Mendocino has been located. The owner of the ultralight aircraft hired a man from Redwood Valley to find the plane, Kenny Purcell. Purcell says there was zero visibility underwater so a diver could not spot the plane. Purcell and another man, Mike Meyers, from Napa found the plane in a section away from where the pilot emerged from the water. A ski rope was used to tow it out of about 60 feet of water. The plane apparently had little damage, but was wheels up so it needed to be flipped over. Once they floated it to the surface with innertubes and tires, it was dragged out with a motorboat. Apparently the sheriff's dept., nor the Army Corp of engineers didn't have the equipment or available staff to get the airplane out of the lake.

A state lawmaker is proposing a bill for universal basic income. Assemblyman Evan Low's bill would pay residents of the state, \$1,000 per month if they're in a certain income bracket. It's to level the playing field, Low says, and end poverty for millions of Californians. State Sen. Scott Weiner has co-authored the bill. He says residents of the state for three years, not currently serving time, who earn less than 200% of the median per capita income for the county they reside in can qualify. The median state income between 2015 and 2019 for a Calif. household was \$75,000.

Public Health and Sonoma County officials say even if the state reopens full in mid-June doesn't mean it'll be like before times. The Press Democrat reports public health guidelines would probably mostly stay in place. State officials are supposed to release more details tomorrow about what we all can expect. The rules for businesses currently include the 6 feet of social distancing, barriers or staggering break times; frequent handwashing; hand sanitizer nearby; constant disinfection of common surfaces; and of course, wearing a mask. Sonoma County could move to the yellow tier next week even still as half of the county's residents 16 and over are fully vaccinated against COVID19. This all comes after the Gov. announced last month he would forego the colored-tiered reopening of the state mid-June for a full reopening, depending on equitable vaccine availability, and low hospitalization rates.

A group of North Coast lawmakers among more than 3 dozen who have sponsored a bill that just passed and became law with the governor's signature. The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law folded anything that was your income into "gross income", no matter where it came from until now. So here, we're considering the federal stimulus money into this package. This law will now conform with federal law, the Consolidated Appropriations Act. So that businesses that got money from any of the stimulus packages from the federal government cannot be taxed as gross income. The bill passed the Assembly and Senate unanimously and Gov. Newsom signed it into law last week. Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Assemblyman Jim Wood and Senators Mike McGuire and Bill Dodd among the group of lawmakers who sponsored the bill.

A homeless man from Oklahoma has been arrested for a burglary at a home in Fort Bragg. An elderly woman called in a burglary in progress at her home and that her husband was holding the intruder at gunpoint. Deputies reported to the home and identified the intruder as Michael James Robinson. They say he entered the home through the couple's bedroom door while they were sleeping. The man took off all his clothes, then put on some of the man of the house's clothing. They say he also took wine and food out of the kitchen but was caught by the homeowners. He's charged with first degree burglary and held in the Mendocino County Jail on \$50,000.00 bail.

05/07/21

A new Starbucks is coming to Clearlake. The city reports the company broke ground on their first drive thru in Lake County. It'll be near Carl's Jr. and Walmart. There's already one inside a grocery store in Lakeport, but this stand-alone store will open around Labor Day. A developer from Monterey is building the coffee shop, and says interest in Clearlake has been strong. And city officials say there's been interest from local and national retailers in the city too. There's another developer apparently interested in buying a piece of the old Pearce Field airport property and another piece of land for hotels.

The city of Lakeport and Lakeport Disposal Inc. had their Spring 2021 Community Cleanup Day on April 24. They reported collecting 21,000 pounds of household trash and junk and another 478 pounds of appliances and nearly 300 more of electronics. The report to the city council from the city manager also included the police dept.'s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which happened the same day as the cleanup, on April 24th. There were 72 pounds of pills collected at the police station at their drive-thru event. Volunteers from SafeRX Lake County helped at the event and distributed Narcan kits.

It's happening, Windsor town officials have formally requested that grand jury investigation into the town's Mayor, Dominic Foppoli, after seven women accused him of some kind of sexual impropriety. The allegations first surfaced in a report from the San Francisco Chronicle. It said over the years 2003 to 2020, Foppoli engaged in sexual harassment at his family's winery or while serving on the Town Council, and there was even rape allegations. Legal experts say it's going to be a challenge to oust the mayor this way. There's also a recall effort which may take a while. And the mayor denies it all and is not resigning. He says the recall effort is being done by "a small group of obstructive individuals" and that those behind it were committed to "destroying a local leader."

Some survivors of the 2017 and 2018 wildfires in Northern Calif. are speaking out after a reports say Pacific Gas & Electric's \$13.5 billion settlement trust is spending a ton on overhead, and not on victims. The Press Democrat reports the Fire Victim Trust, which is supposed to distribute funds to survivors, spent \$51 million, or almost 90% of its spending on overhead last year. Only \$7 million went to victims last year. The newspaper reports a survivor, who's also a lawyer says the claim's administrator sent him a statement last week that said over 9,000 claimants got \$195 million in payments as of April 30th. Apparently most of the claims went out after March of this year, so the \$7 million that went out last year was just part of it.

The first government to government meeting between the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Cal Fire included talks on Indigenous cultural resources and sites in Jackson Demonstration State Forest and how Cal Fire manages Jackson. Mendo Voice reports the Coyote Valley Band of Pomos asked for the government-to-government talk because they want a one year logging moratorium. And the news site reports Cal Fire has never done this sort of government to government consultation with a native tribe regarding Jackson, a 76 square mile working forest between Willits and Fort Bragg.

Cannacraft has to pay hundreds of thousands in restitution and investigative costs to Sonoma County for misleading claims. The cannabis company in Santa Rosa reported one of its products, cannabidiol, usually referred to as CBD, could be therapeutic for many conditions, including chronic pain, cancer, anxiety, diabetes, PTSD, sleep disorders, alcoholism, and more. The DA's office worked within the state's Food, Drug, and Medical Device Task Force, which is tasked with protecting the public from false and misleading advertising in the sale of food, drugs and medical devices, including cannabis and CBD products. So Cannacraft is paying out \$300,000 in the case.

Proposition 19 has reportedly caused an influx of property transfers throughout the North Bay. The law lets homeowners who are over the age of 55 hold a better tax rate if they sell a house and buy another. It also does not allow parents to transfer the property to their kids if the children live there. So that led to a massive transfer of property across the state before the law took effect started April 1st. The deadline for that was February 15th. Homeowners in Sonoma County reportedly filed 917 transfers before the February deadline. There are usually under 200 each year.

Tourism may continue to take a hit in Napa as the downtown area will stay the way it is until at least until February of next year. There are tables along one block of Main Street which were set up during the worst of the pandemic. The restaurants have temporary permits so they can offer outdoor service. The permits go through Feb. 28th after the city decided on the emergency program last August. The city and businesses are supporting the promenade style Main St. closure which seemed to work just fine through winter when there was another dining shutdown due to surging COVID19 cases.

An evacuation ordered at an apartment complex in Ukiah after a chemical odor was detected. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reports getting a call to the apartments in the 1050 block of N. Bush street Wednesday night after reports of people smelling something and workers in the attic reported feeling weird but were okay when they were outdoors. Fire and police reported to the apartment complex where about 30 seniors live. Fire officials sourced the smell to someone cleaning jewelry with a blow torch and a chemical solvent.

After city staff recommended a new device for the purple pipe project to keep algae at bay. The Ukiah City Council approved buying a sonic buoy system which controls algae with sonic vibrations so its safer for aquatic life. They also send back real-time water quality data. The city will purchase one buoy per recycled water pond to break down the algae, at a cost of nearly \$176,000. The staff report to the city council said the algae would not break down unless they used chemicals, but only so much was safe. And after researching what to do, came upon the technology which was being used elsewhere in the state.

A reopening in steps, finally, at the Ukiah Senior Center. The center also gathered for a special awards ceremony after a year of the COVID19 pandemic. The center closed down for activities and programs, but now they are reopening in phases. The executive director says socializing is a key part of our lives, and it's been very hard on seniors who are eager to get back to the center for in person classes and sit down meals. They're hosting senior aerobics, line dancing and bingo for now. They will add other activities and meals through the summer and have a Mother's Day Dinner Fundraiser this Sunday, it's drive-thru. The Thrift Store never closed and the store manager says they actually did quite well during a challenging time.

Woodland Community College could be free as the college could pick up tuition and other expenses for some students. College officials at the latest Clearlake City Council meeting presenting their Promise Program. It could mean free everything for students, including health services and parking. They also offer a \$1,000 scholarship for the student's second year at the school. The Clearlake City Manager says they'll work with the mayor on the idea, the Mayor Dick Slooten supports the idea and says he thinks it will increase attendance for full time enrollment and it will also be a "great boost for the city of Clearlake."

Senator Bill Dodd has a new bill to get wireless broadband infrastructure in place for communities without it to bring the state into alignment with existing federal and state laws. Dodd says his legislation would increase 5G wireless access and improve home and small business access with fixed wireless broadband solutions, calling it critical as Californians increasingly rely on wireless services for distance learning, telehealth and remote working. Both state and federal law call for local governments to provide reasonable, non-discriminatory and cost-based access to street light poles and traffic signal poles in the right of way. It also makes clear how cost is determined to decide attachment rates.

05/10/21

The Sheriff in Lake County who also acts as the Director of Emergency Services has declared a drought emergency. Last week Sheriff Brian Martin sent out his State of Emergency declaration after 2 years of extremely dry conditions due to historically low rainfall. The declaration states there is a local emergency in which Lake County is affected by, or likely will be affected by a public calamity caused by extreme drought conditions since March 5th of 2021. The declaration goes on to say the conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of Lake County, and the Board of Supervisors was not in session at the time of the Sheriff's proclamation. The emergency stays in place until the Board terminates it.

State officials say pediatricians can go around the state's My Turn vaccine management system to get kids vaccinated. CalMatters reports the Food and Drug Administration is expected to authorize vaccines for kids 12 to 15 early this week. A spokesperson for the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force told CalMatters pediatricians and other doctors treating kids don't have to use MyTurn to get their patients' vaccines, but they're also not sure how doctors will get doses. Blue Shield has been managing the process, but the site's been super glitchy and has added up to under 30% of all vaccinations given in the state each day. Blue Shield was trying to get mass-vaccination sites and large health providers vaccinating Californians before smaller clinics got doses.

A man from Laytonville has been arrested after being tracked down for having a felony warrant and for his arrest. Deputies say Antonio Rodriguez was detained by Tribal Police for the warrant Friday. The warrant for failing to appear in court, failure to stop after a car crash, felony vandalism and stealing a car. He was booked into Mendocino County Jail on \$15,000.00 bail

Sheet1

A man in Willits busted on various charges involving a woman who had a restraining order against him. Sheriff's Deputies got a call early Saturday morning and found a 51 year old woman who said she lived with Kyle Cohn and he assaulted her. She was in a car with him when he became agitated and started yelling at her, grabbed her by the face and throat and choked her. She got out of the car and called deputies who say she had visible injuries on her face. Cohn was arrested later that night for domestic violence battery, violating a restraining order and having drug paraphernalia. He was being held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A couple in Ukiah have been arrested, he for having warrants for his arrest, she for harboring a felon. Deputies got a call that Ishmael Nash, who was wanted for felony and misdemeanor warrants, was hiding in an apartment. When they got there they found Alissa Crosswebb who is the mother to Nash's child. She told deputies they couldn't come in and Nash wasn't there. They found her later driving and saw Nash in the backseat and pulled her over. She first denied he was in the car, then admitted it, but he got out and ran. She was arrested for harboring a known wanted felon. And Nash for felon in possession of a firearm and misdemeanor warrant for a probation violation. They also added resisting or obstructing an officer. Crosswebb was allowed to leave due to the pandemic, she has to report back. Nash was held in jail on \$27,500.00 bail.

A man in Ukiah has been arrested for having a warrant. Deputies say they got a report Patrick Davi of Guerneville was causing a disturbance and there was a warrant. They found him in front of a business and nabbed him for the warrant out of Siskiyou County, with \$100,000.00 set bail. He was brought to Mendocino County Jail and sent to be extradited to Siskiyou County.

3 people in Ukiah have been arrested after a disturbance at a motel parking lot. A woman on probation was found with personal items in two cars. She was searched and police found Samuel Graham in one of the vehicles, he was detained after it was found he was involved in the disturbance that brought them there. Another man, Anthony Romero was found with the female, Romona Supnet. She was detained and Romero gave a fake name, so he was detained. He was also found with a phony California Identification Card. Deputies found a loaded Glock .380 caliber handgun in one car, and a 9mm in another. The trio were taken to jail on various charges including, convicted felon in possession of a firearm, concealed firearm in a vehicle, possession of a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm, convicted felon in possession of ammunition and for felony warrants. Romero and Graham were each held on \$25,000.00 bail and Supnet on \$175,000.00.

A man from Lakeport has been arrested after threatening to kill his live-in girlfriend. The Sheriff's office reports getting a call to a home, finding Morgan Jack, who's girlfriend says he wouldn't let her leave. They found him after hearing some metallic banging noises, recognizing it as a firearm being manipulated and then believed Jack was armed. He wouldn't leave the house with deputies, so they left and tried again, seeing him raise a rifle and fire a shot in their direction. They called for backup and a SWAT team came out. He threatened to kill them all, but after two hours he came out. One of the negotiators and a police dog took him down. He had minor injuries. Later deputies found a pellet gun. He was taken to a hospital first to be treated, then arrested for Criminal Threats, Assault on a Peace Officer with an Instrument not a Firearm, and Obstruction. His bail is set at \$50,000.

After a traffic stop in Willits, a man is arrested after being found with a weapon. Police say a loaded firearm was in Joseph Hipes car, but he's a convicted felon on Post Release Community Supervision, and prohibited from owning or possessing any firearms. Hipes was taken to Mendocino County Jail and booked on felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a loaded firearm and not being the registered owner, being out on bail and committing an additional felony, carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle and violating the terms and conditions of PRCS. He was held on \$75,000 dollars bail.

The Ukiah Schools Superintendent putting out one of her last notes to district parents, this one focusing on vaccinations. Each Friday the note goes out, this one, mostly all about the pandemic and how this past year has been so difficult. There are only about 2.5 weeks left in the school year. Summer school is happening and plans for next fall are still being finalized. There are safety measures in place to help open classrooms to in-person learning and keep them open. The superintendent touting getting students vaccinated as quickly as possible when it is authorized, which could come for kids 12-15 this week. There is already a vaccination clinic set up for Ukiah Unified students 12-15 in partnership with the City of Ukiah and Mendocino County Public Health. A note will be going out as soon as the FDA authorization goes through.

CHP and deputies seen towing a silver car that witnesses say looked like a car that was being searched for connected to a fatal hit and run last week. Mendo Fever reports the Sheriff's office says officers were in the Brooktrails area as part of their investigation into the hit and run. A witness tells the news site they happened to be in the area when the silver sedan was loaded onto a tow truck. Paul Brown of Fort Bragg was hit by a car on Sherwood Rd. in Willits. The car crossed the double yellow line while he walked along the shoulder. Somebody else who saw the car on the tow truck reported to the news site it had front end damage. The news site reports calling the CHP Garberville office but they had not received any new information.

In Sonoma County, they're looking for citizens to ration their water usage. Drought conditions across the state could mean restrictions on taking water from the Russian River. Cloverdale and Healdsburg have begun mandatory restrictions of at least 20% lower usage as compared to last year. Sonoma County officials say though that they're leaning toward voluntary conservation measures. Releases are still coming from Lake Sonoma because of how low Lake Mendocino is. And Healdsburg and Cloverdale rely mostly on groundwater. The largest city in Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, has already seen a reduction by residents around 15% the first three months of this year. But Sonoma Water, which relies on water from Eel River, won't be getting it because the river is so low.

Ukiah should have enough water for its residents in this critically dry season of drought, but no word if there will be enough to share with other communities. The director of water and sewer resources in Ukiah told the City Council last week that Lake Mendocino is probably going to be the lowest in history, depending on demand. Last week the director met with representatives from the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, the Russian River Flood Control and Water Resource Conservation District, Willow County Water District and Millview County Water District.

As the population of the state declines, the latest estimates show Paradise, decimated by the Camp Fire 2 years ago, with quite a bump. Construction was up because of all the rebuilds after the fire. As of January of 2020, there were just over 4,600 people living in Paradise, as of this past January there were 6,046 people living there. That percentage was more than then the rest of the state, where there were fewer new babies born, less people immigrating in from other places or some just leaving. The population as a whole was off by nearly 182,100 people. The first decline in recorded state history.

A man from Fresno has been arrested on drug charges in Ukiah. Police report Isaac Gonzales was found traveling early yesterday morning in the 600 block of S. Orchard Ave. The car had no license plate light so the officer pulled the guy over in the parking lot of a Super 8 Motel. Gonzales told the officer he was driving with a suspended license, then another officer came for backup and they asked Gonzales to get out of the car, but say he refused and reached towards the waistband of his pants. The officers reached into the vehicle and took control of the man's wrists. Gonzales got out of the car and tried to break free. A gun fell out of his waistband. Two more cops showed up and the man was taken into custody. They found meth and cash. Also a records check showed he was a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing a firearm. He was arrested for possessing a controlled substance for sale, transporting a controlled substance for sale, possessing a firearm by a prohibited person, resisting arrest and being armed in commission of a felony.

05/11/21

A man from Covelo's been arrested for violating a restraining order. The Sheriff's office reports getting a call from a woman who says Cort Miller, who was served that day with a temporary restraining order against him, called and harassed her. The woman says, it was only a half hour later that Miller called her and left her harassing messages. A state Fish and Wildlife Warden apparently saw the car Miller was in, then a Deputy met the Warden and they arrested him for violating the restraining order. They also found a single shot 12-gauge shotgun in the trunk of his car. Since he's a convicted felon, he's prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. So he was arrested for the violation of the restraining order and possession of a firearm and ammo and held in jail on \$25,000.00 bail.

A man from Willits has been arrested on a slew of charges after a Deputy on routine patrol happened upon him at a gas station in Redwood Valley. The Deputy thought the man looked familiar and knew he was on Felony Probation out of Mendocino County for Burglary. He was then identified as Christopher Guerrero and searched due to his probation terms. The Deputy contacted him inside the gas station and found he had over a dozen debit cards and a couple Driver Licenses belonging to various people. In the car were some forged checks, Xanax pills, Fentanyl, almost 5 grams of heroin and a gram of meth. There were also hundreds of baseball cards and two comic books, suspected to be stolen property. He's charged with multiple crimes including violating his probation, felony possession of forged checks, access cards, meth and heroin and held on \$50,000.00 bail.

The drought's getting real. In Sonoma County, the Board of Supervisors is expected to formally support taking 20% less water from the Russian River for the rest of the year. It means those relying on Sonoma Water agency will have to use less water than they did a year ago. The Press Democrat reports it's also for those in Healdsburg and Camp Meeker. The board expected to take action today ahead of requesting authorization from the state Water Resources Control Board to reduce river flows under the amount needed to support fish habitat, already in trouble. But it means that more water would stay behind the dams at Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino.

The Governor is looking to distribute more stimulus checks to the masses... but not everyone. Newsom's looking to hand out payments to millions of poor and middle-class Californians in the form of tax rebates of up to \$1,100. The money would come from part of the \$75 billion budget surplus. Those who earn \$30,000 to \$75,000 a year would get \$600, households at \$75,000 with at least one child, including immigrants in the country illegally who file taxes, would get \$500. The money mostly comes from wealthier Californians who fared better during the pandemic. Last year state officials said they were expecting a \$50 billion dollar deficit.

Sheet1

A bunch of roadwork coming to the city of Clearlake. The city council has unanimously approved a contract for more than \$335,000 for its 2021 Chip Seal Project and Pavement on about 5.6 miles. About 40 miles of 100 in the city remain unpaved due to limited money and maintenance. The city's mostly been grading unpaved roads, filling potholes and sealing cracks. But voters passed an initiative a few years back to start managing pavement better in the city. Last year the city tested a mile of unpaved road with grading and rolling in preparation for chip sealing. They say it looks to have worked so they're now doing a much larger piece of road. The low bidder got the work which will be paid for with Measure V money. The contract was approved by all council members last Thursday.

Congressman Mike Thompson will be the guest at the Middletown Area Town Hall this week. The meeting is Thursday and is open to the public, but taking place on Zoom. The Congressman is set to be in the meeting at 7:10 p.m. for his presentation and will take questions. They will also hear an update from County Supervisor Moke Simon at 8:30 p.m. Then later they'll discuss getting back to in person meetings.

[Community members are asked to email questions for Thompson to MATH at MATHtownhall@g](#)

[To join the Zoom meeting click onthis link; the meeting ID is 935 1671 5770. Call in at 888-788-0](#)

The Lake County Board of Supervisors, like so many counterparts across the state, are considering ratifying a drought emergency issued by the Sheriff. The board will take up the drought emergency declaration after Sheriff Brian Martin issued the emergency proclamation due to critically dry conditions and low rainfall. The board will first hear from the director of Public Works, Water Resources and Community Development, on conditions on Clear Lake. Later this morning they will consider the emergency declaration. They will also consider an agreement for redistricting and consulting services which has to be done each ten year cycle after the census to redraw supervisorial districts. The board is also meeting behind closed doors on the ongoing search for a new public health officer. Dr. Gary Pace left the job last month.

At a special meeting for the Willits Unified School District (WUSD) School Board they agreed to hire a Special Education Program Specialist. The Superintendent Mark Westerburg told the board they had to hire someone to aid teachers with special education kids in their classroom using money that came to the district due to the pandemic. Westerburg says it will help get students back on track and in school in person. The board has also approved a reorganization of its preschool program so a staffer who manages it will get a reasonable wage as a Classified Management Preschool Director. The superintendent says it will have zero financial impact on the district. The next meeting of the board is tomorrow.

The Fort Bragg City Council is one of the last remaining still holding meetings on Zoom. The Advocate News reports just Fort Bragg and Laguna Beach are trying to conduct hybrid meetings. The newspaper reports the meeting last night was a tad chaotic because there were a bunch of audio-visual problems online and in person. In any case the city council heard from the city manager about the drought and looking at steps to take this summer. They also agreed to continue the official state of emergency due to COVID-19. They also spent some time on the new Cannabis ordinance approved by the board of supervisors to streamline certain processes and applications and get stricter on how business permits are doled out, or not, depending on an applicants criminal background. The amended ordinance was a necessity by state law.

Cal Fire has suspended burn permits in Mendocino County. Residential and yard burning outdoor permits are suspended for the season starting Monday. The reason, dead grass, increasing hot weather and dry conditions. It's the second dry year and Cal Fire warns it could be another devastating fire season. And the agency says while wildfires are a natural part of the landscape, each year the fire weather starts sooner and ends later. They say climate change is a key driver of the trend. The director of Cal Fire says last year was the most destructive fire season in modern history so the public has to continue to adapt and evolve to be able to withstand the intensity of the fires. Cal Fire is asking all property owners to take the time and put 100 feet of defensible space around their property.

The state of California may be able to stop social distancing in the workplace by mid-summer. The news comes from Cal-OSHA as more and more people get vaccinated and as COVID case numbers are way down from last summer. It would mean workplace regulations that started in November could end in August. It also would include fully vaccinated workers not having to wear a mask outdoors and do not have any COVID symptoms. If all people in one workspace or room are vaccinated, they could also forego masks indoors. Workers could be closer together with N95 masks or if fully vaccinated except for those requiring a "reasonable accommodation or exception to vaccination" under federal or state law.

As the state announces which counties can move forward in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, Sonoma County is left behind. Last week, officials were confident the county would move to the state's less restrictive yellow tier, but orange it is. Public health officials say there are spiking cases especially in those in their 20s and 30s. They say it's due to people getting together in groups, travel and spread in households. There were 184 new infections in the last 2 weeks. The Press Democrat reports 27% of it can be connected to household transmission, 22% to small and large gatherings of friends and family, and 8% was tracked mostly to travel outside the state. There's also 44% with unknown origin.

05/12/21

The Gov. is proposing a multimillion dollar infusion of cash into homelessness programs and housing. Gov. Newsom is proposing an expenditure of \$12 billion for those without shelter to get them into housing and to “functionally end family homelessness” within five years. He says he doesn’t want to just keep talking about it, he wants to take action. His deal includes \$8.75 billion for an expanded pandemic program which turns hotel and motel rooms and other properties into housing for the neediest. And he wants to create housing where mental health and other behavioral services are provided on site. Currently there are an estimated 161,000 people experiencing homelessness, more than any other state.

A fire in Fort Bragg has been put out and an arrest has been made. Mendo Fever reports hearing on a police scanner that Fort Bragg Volunteer Firefighters were on the scene of a vegetation fire on the Noyo Bluffs on the north side of the harbor by the Mendocino Indian Reservation. The fire dept. reports the fire was in a homeless camp and because of high winds it was carried into vegetation, about “a quarter of the way up from the beach”. It burned less than an acre. Someone was reportedly arrested in connection to the fire, but no word if it was intentional.

After a stolen Jeep was spotted by a patrol officer in Ukiah by Redwood Ford, a man was arrested. Last Friday reports came in about a stolen Jeep Patriot from a car dealer. The owner of the lot told police nobody had permission to take it. The next day a patrol officer spotted it at a Walmart and called for backup, then approached. The officer says the man, identified as William Vaughn didn’t follow directions to get out of the Jeep and got out and ran. They went after him and arrested him, finding he was on probation and could be searched. There were window punch and lock pick tools and a used meth smoking pipe. He was booked into jail, but due to the pandemic was freed to return to court at a later date.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has approved the drought emergency declared by the Sheriff last week. The board heard yesterday from the director of the Public Works, Water Resources and Community Development Dept. on drought conditions before approving the proclamation. Director Scott DeLeon presented a look back to the supervisors of precipitation numbers thru the years with the average rainfall at about 37.45 inches, but this year, it’s only 12.28 inches. Barely a tenth of an inch more than the driest year on record back in 1976. The last drought emergency declaration was in 2014. Clearlake is also at historically low levels. The Sheriff was at the meeting yesterday for the drought emergency ratification request for which the board voted in favor. The board can move to ask the governor for a diversion of emergency resources due to the drought.

The state's utility regulator has ordered Pacific Gas and Electric to get back to work on its 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan update. The director of the California Public Utilities Commission Wildfire Safety Division has sent a notice to the utility company that they need to address critical issues and may give them only three months to add onto its plan to help quell future wildfires. The letter said the company has shown time and time again it's not protecting its customers and repeated mistakes have led to devastating wildfires that have killed more than 120 people. The regulator's Public Advocates Office has previously recommended rejecting PG&E's 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

Volunteers are needed for the Konocti Fire Lookout. The 2021 fire season is upon us so prospective volunteers are being told to come to an orientation and general meeting at Kelseyville County Park this Sunday at 2 p.m. The volunteers can schedule themselves for eight or four hour shifts once they have the proper training. Volunteers at the Lookout are organized by the Forest Fire Lookout Association under the direction of Cal Fire. Right now there's very limited staffing until this weekend, then there will be a lot more openings.

For additional information contact Association Director Jim Adams at 707-245-3771.

The Calif. Water Service is asking customers in the Lucerne water system to conserve water due to low lake level. The water system gets its water from Clear Lake. Lake Co News reports the District Manager saying they're preparing for drought conditions by replacing, repairing, and upgrading infrastructure to minimize water loss; identifying and repairing leaks through a Water Loss Auditing and Control Program; and they're developing a 30-year water supply and facilities master plan, updating its conservation master plan. They're also offering rebates on high-efficiency appliances and devices; a free conservation kit including a special garden hose nozzle, high-efficiency shower heads, faucet aerators, educational resources; and a smart landscape program with installation of efficient devices and repair of irrigation leaks at no cost to customers. The utility covers Lucerne and parts of Duncans Mills, Guerneville, Dillon Beach, Noel Heights and Santa Rosa.

Visit www.calwater.com/conservation or contact the Redwood Valley Customer Center at 707-27

The Governor has added more counties to the drought emergency, the broadest since the former Gov. Jerry Brown declared the end to the last drought in 2017. Newsom spoke again, at the bottom of a dried out lake. Last month it was Lake Mendocino, this time, the San Luis Reservoir near Gilroy. The Governor did not announce mandatory water conservation, but the Sierra Nevada snowpack, almost a third of the state's water, was at 59% of its historical average on April 1st and it's melting and soaking into ground, not running into rivers and reservoirs. The Governor's declaration is for 41 of the state's 58 counties. He added 39 more after already declaring a drought emergency in Mendocino and Sonoma counties last month.

The Ukiah Planning Commission is considering a new cannabis business where the old Ukiah Custom Cabinets was located. Stephanie and Chelsea Lovell are applying for their business on Waugh Lane, "Crave Processing, Distribution, and Delivery". Their application says their business has grown to a point where they need in house processing of raw cannabis material. They will use the 13,000-square-foot building for drying, trimming, weighing and packaging cannabis flower. They also want a small delivery only area within the facility. The Commission meeting is tonight at 6pm, online only.

A driver who was accused of a fatal hit and run of a man in Brooktrails last week has reportedly turned himself in. The CHP reports Aaron Manning of Willits came in the afternoon the crash happened to give a statement. Paul Brown was hit and killed by a silver sedan last Friday morning. A Hyundai crossed the eastbound side of Sherwood Road near Birch Terrace and hit Brown while he was walking along the road. The driver took off, but the car was reportedly damaged and seen by witnesses this week being towed away from the area. The CHP reportedly figured out what kind of car hit Brown because pieces of it were left behind at the scene.

A man from Fort Bragg is being blamed on some small fires that burned on the Noyo Bluffs. Only about ½ acre burned on a hill above the shore, but witnesses put a known transient from the area, Lee Jason Rupert at the scene. He was arrested Tuesday night for arson. Mendo Fever reports speaking to the Fort Bragg Police Department who contacted other transients nearby who fingered Rupert as the person who lit several fires that merged into one. Police knew him from previous contact. They were there with firefighters on the north side of the harbor near the Mendocino Indian Reservation, where there are several homeless encampments. High winds spread the fire, but firefighters got quick control of the flames and Rupert was arrested on suspicion of arson.

05/13/21

Appointments are already available for children in Calif. ages 12-15 year's old to get the Pfizer vaccine. Yesterday an independent panel approved its use, and the CDC followed. The Governor announced the more Californians that get vaccinated, the faster we can slow the spread of COVID-19. He says the state's leading the country with more than 32 million vaccines administered and some of the lowest positivity rates in the entire country. The move comes after the FDA first approved the vaccine's use in youth 12-15 after clinical trials proved it was safe with the only non-serious side effects as fatigue and headache.

[Parents, legal guardians or emancipated young people can check vaccine availability and book :](#)

A security company in Sonoma County with ties to the Windsor Mayor accused of sex assault, are going out of business. The Press Democrat reports Whitestar Security Group was owned by Mayor Dominic Foppoli, Clayton Taylor and Brandon Rojas. The company rose fast, securing contracts with the state and nonprofit homeless service providers. After eight women accused Foppoli of sexual assault, abuse or misconduct, contracts were canceled and partners left Whitestar. Then there were layoffs. So the company is going out of business after losing as much as 70% of its business after the Foppoli scandal surfaced.

The Governor's clarifying his stance on wearing masks indoors after the mid-June planned reopening of the state. The mandatory mask requirement has been in place nearly a year, and the Gov. had said he would be lifting most protocols on businesses and activities June 15th if things leveled off. But on Tuesday he said we're not wearing face coverings, and not restricted in any way, except huge, large-scale events, and there we'd use common sense. But yesterday while in Monterey he said, there will still probably be some mask guidelines and mandates for indoor activities. But that he hoped that would be lifted soon too. It comes after Cal OSHA said some guidelines would change on facial coverings. The state Dept. of Public Health says they'll update face covering rules as appropriate with the goal to loosen restrictions as people get vaccinated.

A man from Lakeport accused of being in possession of child pornography had his sentencing continued. 59 year old Jeffery Cramer was supposed to be sentenced Monday after taking a plea deal but the DA on his case says the court must use a visiting judge since two others disqualified themselves, and a third was expected to do the same, but we don't know why. So the case moves to mid-June when they'll set a new sentencing date. Cramer entered a no contest plea to felony possession of child pornography after a month's long investigation at Main Street Bicycles, which he owned at the time. He was found to have used digital devices to upload kiddie porn at least five times between August 2019 and February 2020. He faces a year in jail and 2 years' probation.

The Gov. has announced another plan for public schools, investing another \$20 billion for inclusivity. The Gov. says the state's doing more to fully reopen in the upcoming school year in his \$100 billion economic recovery plan. He says his plan will "create new opportunities for every student, especially for the neediest students, so that every child can thrive, regardless of their race or zip code". The \$20 billion dollar investment will create universal Pre-K and establish college savings accounts for 3.7 million disadvantaged kids for higher education pursuits or to start their own business.

The discussion on cannabis code enforcement with the Mendocino Board of Supervisors continues. This past Tuesday the board discussed mirroring what Humboldt County is doing and they're considering adding several jobs in the cannabis and sheriff's departments. In Humboldt County, we heard they use satellite imagery and various agencies work together against illegal grows, but here in Mendo, it's more code enforcement reactive. The Mendocino County Sheriff was at Tuesday's meeting saying the county needs to once and for all put its foot down on sites that are out of compliance so they can also address more dangerous activity in the county. It was a busy meeting Tuesday, as supervisors also discussed how to spend PG&E settlement funds and heard from the utility company on this year's plans for potential Public Safety Power Shut-Offs.

A pickup truck driver was trapped for almost three hours after a crash into a tree. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reported to an area near the Mill Creek Dam yesterday finding the truck slammed, and stuck in the large oak tree on a steep hill. The driver was described as having critical injuries and taken from the vehicle with the jaws of life. He's identified as 20 year old Jonathan Corona of Ukiah. With him in the truck were three teenagers, a 17-year-old boy, 15-year-old girl and 14-year-old girl, all from Ukiah who were able to get out of the car on their own. But the two teen girls also had major injuries. And the boy was injured too, so everyone in the truck ended up in the hospital. Police are investigating and say they think alcohol and drugs could have been a factor.

A special meeting's planned of Ukiah's Paths, Open Space and Creeks Commission. They're deciding today about the proposed annexation of almost 700 acres of land in the Western Hills which would also include the possibility of new housing and infrastructure improvements. The city's looking at acquiring, then annexing 693 acres for open space preservation, at the same time allowing low-density residential development on about 50 of the easternmost acres. But a report on how it might affect the environment showed possible significant air quality impact and on Biological Resources, Cultural /Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. But they say mitigation measures could reduce all impacts to less than significant.

Not looking like Lake County's moving out of the state's Orange Tier, into Yellow. The state's getting rid of the color-tiered system in a month anyway. The county's interim Public Health Officer, Dr. Evan Bloom told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday the reason was the amount of the population who've received the COVID-19 vaccine. That's about 52% of those 16 and older. And not all are fully vaccinated. The state's rate was 63% as partially or fully vaccinated. And Lake County's epidemiologist says there are promising indicators though for daily case and positivity rates, but more people could be getting vaccinated to help. She says it's especially important for the over 65 crowd.

Mediacom has announced it'll take part in the federal government's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. The program is set up for families and individuals who have been unable to pay for their Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when most, need it. The temporary program is being administered by the FCC to give those eligible up to \$50 off their monthly internet bill. The company says it's another way they can make sure families and individuals adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have access to reliable broadband. Enrollment began this week, but those who want it must first get verified. For more info, call 855-330-6918.

05/14/21

Three scholarships are being given to three natural science students at Mendocino College. The Friends of the Mendocino College Coastal Field Station and Natural Sciences, an affiliate of the Foundation have awarded the Mary Lou Koeninger Memorial Scholarship in Earth Science to Ana Delgado Mendoza and two scholarships by the Audubon Society are going to Missael Barosa and Erin Orth. Delgado Mendoza has an interest in math and is looking to go for geology, physics, environmental science or oceanography. Barosa loves wildlife and is hoping to transfer to Sonoma State University or Chico State University and Orth says she wants to be a conservation scientist and study environmental science at the graduate level.

For more information about the Friends of the Mendocino College Coastal Field Station and Natural Sciences, please contact earth science professor Steve Cardimona at (707) 468-3219.

Two local organizations are being sponsored by Voclality Community Credit Union ahead of fire season. Mendocino Coast Children's Fund and United Disaster Relief of Northern California each got \$5,000 for disaster relief and preparedness for 2021. The two nonprofits won the grants for helping during and after natural disasters, public health crises, and devastating economic periods. The Credit Union says the grants are part of their focus to better serve Mendocino, Lake, and Northern Sonoma counties members. Their newest branch is in Ukiah. The credit union is headquartered in Garberville.

For more information, visit <https://www.vocalityccu.org/>

The US Drought Monitor update shows areas in Calif. of "exceptional drought". It's been expanded in to the southern and eastern Sierra Nevada due to low snowpack. The weekly update comes just after the Governor expanded the drought emergency to cover 41 of the state's 58 counties. Exceptional drought is the worst level from the monitor. Most of the rest of the state is in extreme or severe categories and just a small part of the far north coast and two southernmost counties are in moderate drought. The rain and snowfall this year have been well below normal and instead of flowing into rivers or creeks, was absorbed into the ground.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports an officer involved shooting in Elk. A homeowner, not in the house at the time, but had video footage of someone unknown to them inside the home. Deputies responded about 20 mins later and came into contact with a man outside, which led to a quick foot chase. The man opened fire on a deputy who returned fire. There were no injuries reported. The suspect has not been found, but investigators are still searching. They say whoever it was is armed and dangerous. They say they think it's the same man involved in a string of vandalism/burglaries of cabins in the area of Pine Ridge Road and Low Gap Road in Ukiah last February. The suspect is described as being a white man, about 5 foot 10, 165-180 pounds and has a red beard.

Police in Willits got a call to a pub for a report of a burglary. It happened at Shanachie Pub where cops found a door had been forced open and a bunch of stuff was stolen. Police at a separate incident last Friday got security footage and identified the suspect as Dustin Brown who they saw walking and contacted. He admitted he was involved in the theft and had some of the stolen items and meth on him. Brown's arrested and booked into Mendocino County Jail on burglary, cutting lines that conduct electricity and possession of controlled substance. The guy was released due to the pandemic, then busted again Wednesday after a rip off of another business, JD Redhouse. He denied doing anything wrong but was arrested anyway. This time he's charged with false pretenses to obtain property, theft and committing a felony while out on bail or own recognizance. He was held in jail this time.

After the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put out new guidance on those fully vaccinated and wearing masks and social distancing, Calif. awaits new guidance. The state dept. of Public Health has kept mum so far about the new guidance. Masks will still need to be worn in crowded indoor settings, like when you travel on a bus or airplane, and in hospitals and prisons. The Gov. has vacillated on mask wearing in recent days, but before this new guidance came out. The state is supposed to fully reopen next month, but we're not sure exactly what that will entail. So far about 60% of those 16 and older are partially vaccinated in California. But we might have to see what counties do locally, as percentages of people vaccinated varies.

The Governor says he wants to put another \$1.5 billion into a program that gives grants of up to \$25,000 to small businesses impacted by the pandemic. The money would barely make a dent unfortunately as 350,000 small businesses have filed applications of over \$4.5 billion after another program was announced earlier this year. But business groups have said whatever the boost is, will help as the state's supposed to reopen fully in about a month. The money on top of \$500 million for 21,000 small businesses announced after the New Year. Then in February another \$2.1 billion in grants was approved.

A parade in Lakeport for Memorial Day is on. The Lakeport Main Street Association announced their annual Memorial Day Parade will be on Saturday, May 29th after a year off due to the pandemic. The theme this year is "Honoring, Reflecting, Remembering" and will take place on Main Street from Martin to Clear Lake Avenue. The street will be closed starting at about 10:30 a.m. for an 11:00 start. So far there are about 50 entries confirmed for the parade including antique cars, horses, floats and a stagecoach. They will also livestream the parade on the event Facebook page.

A man from Crescent City has been arrested on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter after a motorcyclist was killed on the Willits Bypass. The California Highway Patrol reports Michael Confer of Crescent City was driving a 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix north on the 101 early yesterday morning and for unknown reasons, went over the double yellow lines and into oncoming traffic. He went into southbound traffic, into the path of a 2007 BMW motorcycle, hitting it head-on, ejecting the 68-year-old driver. The Pontiac burst into flames and the motorcyclist was killed. He's identified as Wayne Berry of Arroyo Grande. Confer had minor injuries and was arrested on suspicion of DUI of a controlled substance and vehicular manslaughter and booked into Mendocino County Jail.

05/17/21

Former sheriff Tom Allman says Mendocino County is falling way short when it comes to treating those affected by mental illness. 4 years after county voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B that implemented a sales tax increase to pay for a Psychiatric Health Facility and other programs to help improve mental health services, Allman says there is little to show for the money the county has taken in. Allman was a driving force behind Measure B. He has written a letter to the editor of the Ukiah Daily Journal, saying that the lack of mental health services—not marijuana—is the number one problem in the county. He is also concerned that law enforcement officers are still forced to respond to calls that can be handled more appropriately by mental health professionals. Allman wants the five members of the county board of supervisors to put mental health concerns at the top of every agenda to spur improvements to the system. Allman tells the paper he speaks from personal experience with the lack of help for people who need it. His brother took his own life back in 2005.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office says quick action by county jail staff prevented an inmate from hanging himself. The MCSO says staff members found the inmate on Thursday with a sheet tied around his neck after a call from another prisoner came in over the jail intercom. The staff members then worked together to untie the sheet and make sure the inmate was still breathing. The 32-year-old man from Covelo was taken to the hospital and is expected to be OK.

The union representing Mendocino County Public Health workers is concerned about how their department is being run. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports that S E I U local 1021 has written to the county board of supervisors, saying Public Health workers are struggling to meet state standards because of low wages, staff shortages, and a lack of support from Health and Human Services management. The union says the 2007 merger that put Public Health into the same agency as the county Social Services and Mental Health departments has not worked out well. Union leaders think spinning off Public Health as a standalone department could ease some of the problems.

The Lakeport City Council will talk about labor issues at its regular meeting this week. They will have discussions with the Lakeport Police Officers Association, the Lakeport Employees Association, and Unrepresented Management in a closed session at 5:15 before their open meeting at 6:00. The public agenda includes introducing the new Lakeport Fire Protection District Fire Chief, Jeffery Thomas, who started his job in April. The Council will also look over a resolution that would allow the city to issue bonds to pay for its unfunded pension obligations. Lakeport is about 8.4 million dollars shy of what it needs to pay those pensions and what it has available with the state retirement system. Tuesday's meeting is virtual. You can submit a question to virtualhost@cityoflakeport.com by 3:30 tomorrow afternoon if you would like to speak during the public comment period.

Blood supplies are running short, so the call is out for donors. The Lakeport Community Blood Drive on Tuesday is one way you can make that potentially life-saving gift. It will be held from 11 am to 3:30 pm. at United Christian Parish at 745 N Brush Street. All donors will be tested for covid-19 antibodies. Blood banks here and across the country are concerned because fewer people have donated due to the pandemic. The usual summer donation slowdown is just around the corner as well.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office says it has received a report about a calf that was shot in Laytonville. Cattle Rancher Phil Gravier says he's baffled why anyone would deliberately aim at a calf point blank and leave it for dead. Fortunately, the calf didn't die and is slowly recovering. Gravier found his animal with a gunshot wound in its side at his property near the Foster Creek area off of Bell Springs Road earlier this month. He is sure it was no accident because the shooter went out of their way to find the calf in a remote pasture. Gravier says in his 20 years of ranching no one has ever tried to harm any of his livestock. The sheriff's office says there are no suspects. If you know anything about the shooting, you can contact the sheriff's office or reach Phil Gravier through his farm's Facebook page.

The Lake Area Planning Council is looking for public opinions about transit. They're set up a brief online web survey to get feedback to guide them as they make transit-related decisions. Specifically, they would like to know how familiar residents are with what's available and how transit can serve the community better. You can see the link on the local news page of our website.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LakeCoTransitSurvey>.

If you're doing some spring cleaning or have some unwanted stuff you accumulated during the pandemic the City of Ukiah has a way for you to downsize. The Ukiah Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Sunday, June 6th at Todd Grove Park. The sale is from 8 am to 1 pm. Applications to become a vendor are available online at

<http://www.cityofukiah.com/communityyardsale> or at the recreation office on West Clay St. They

This is TAX DAY, both for the state and the IRS. The deadline got pushed back from its traditional April 15th spot on the calendar to deal with the complex tax changes due to the pandemic. Now, time is about up. If those forms are in the mail by the end of the day, you are fine. After that, the clock starts running for interest and other penalties. If you have some really last-minute questions, need forms, or want to file online, the websites are taxes.ca.gov for California and irs.gov for federal.

05/18/21

California's mask mandate stays—for now. Governor Newsom says that rule will remain in place until June 15th, when it will be modified to follow the latest guidelines from the CDC. Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly says that extra time will let businesses adjust and more people get vaccinated. Other states have lifted their mandates allowing vaccinated people to go maskless in most cases. However, in California, masks are required indoors unless you are with vaccinated people, until June 15th.

The Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism alliance is offering some incentives to people who get their Covid shots. Mendocino County residents who have received vaccines or getting them can get free gifts provided by North Coast Opportunities. The freebies include hand sanitizer, masks, cookbooks, seeds, and even some "Love Local Mendo" gift cards with a random value between \$5.00 and \$50.00 to use in participating small businesses. You can qualify by signing up at upcoming vaccine outreach events in Ukiah. They are scheduled for this Friday, May 21, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Plowshares Peace and Justice Center on South State St. and on Friday, May 28, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM: Slam Dunk Pizza on North State St. Those sites will also help people who want to set up vaccine appointments, as part of North Coast Opportunities "Get the Jab" outreach.

Ukiah police have arrested a woman after they say she fought with two employees at the Wal-Mart on Airport Park Boulevard. Officers say 32-year-old Rachael Seivertson of Ukiah punched those two workers as she was trying to wheel a shopping cart full of almost \$200 dollars worth of stuff past the exit on Monday morning. Police say they spotted Seivertson trying to leave the store and that she fought with an officer trying to take her in. She was eventually restrained. Both Walmart workers were hurt. One of them was 69 years old and suffered injuries to her face, the other woman went to the hospital with back pain. The police officer was OK. Seivertson is now facing felony robbery charges along with charges of resisting arrest and elder abuse because of the age of one of the injured clerks. Seivertson is in jail on \$150,000 bail.

Mendocino county sheriff's deputies have charged a man with trying to rob two people with a fake gun. They say 32-year-old Jacob Sellmer of Ukiah confronted a teenage brother and sister in a business parking lot in the 1300 block of North State Street on Saturday afternoon. Cops later found him not far away using surveillance video and witness information. Sellmer's charges include showing an imitation firearm and a probation violation from a previous conviction for vandalism.

Sheet1

This week's meeting of the Clearlake City Council will include a discussion of a 50 million dollar development proposal. Lake Co News reports the council will talk about a plan to bring 85 new housing units to the city. The mixed-income development would be built on 31 acres on Burns Valley Road. City staff has been talking with that developer about its plans. If approved, 7.5 million dollars for the project would come from disaster relief funds allocated to Clearlake and Lakeport. Work could start as soon as next year. The council will also hold a budget workshop before their regular meeting on Thursday at 5 PM at city hall. The regular council meeting starts at 6. The meetings are open to the public, but masks are required. You can watch it on Zoom and on Clearlake's Youtube channel. The agenda and comment information is available on the city's website.

The federal Bureau of Land Management has enacted seasonal fire restrictions—including a ban on target shooting—on lands it manages in several counties, including Lake and Mendocino. It takes effect on Friday. The BLM says the risk is high due to the dry conditions across the region. The order means no campfires, barbecues, or open fires, except in a developed campground. Portable stoves with gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed with a valid California campfire permit available free at all BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and Cal Fire offices. Other open fire sources are banned too. Violators can get a hefty fine of up to \$100,000 or up to 12 in prison. You can find more on the website readyforwildfire.org.

Traffic crashes are down in Willits. The Willits PD says they've responded to 23 crashes so far this year—a significant drop from last year when there were 83 crashes over the 12 months. Police think the pandemic may be part of the reason for the decline. The department says it has identified several areas such as school zones, crosswalks, and main thoroughfares as priorities for traffic enforcement. Police are also encouraging drivers to help keep roads safe by dialing 9 1 1 if they spot reckless or possibly impaired drivers.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District in Willits is considering a significant date opening of its new firehouse. The district board is talking about opening the new facility on Commercial Street on September 11—the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The Willits News reports that work is progressing on the building. If all goes as planned, that work should be done by August.

The first students in a groundbreaking program offered by the Ukiah Unified School District have graduated. 25 students took part in the Middle College Program is a partnership between the district and Mendocino College. The graduates have spent the past three years taking their courses on the college campus. The district's director of Alternative education, Scott Paulin, says the program offers those students the best of both high school and college, giving them a leg up as they go on to higher education. Those enrolled experience all the benefits of a small school environment during the school day and still attend UHS social events or compete in UHS athletics if they want to. Twelve members of the new class have elected to remain at Mendocino College in the fall. Others have enrolled at the University of California and California State Colleges around the state, and one graduate will be attending Montana State University. The Middle College program is available for any 10th, 11th and 12th-grade students in Mendocino and Lake Counties. You can reach out to Scott Paulin at spaulin@uusd.net to find out more.

Governor Newsom wants to spend billions to get more people connected to high-speed internet. He has outlined a 7 billion dollar proposal that would rely heavily on federal money to build out the internet infrastructure and give providers incentives to expand their service. The governor says it is important to act quickly to bridge what some call the digital divide between those who have fast broadband and do not. More than half of rural California's rural residents lack access to high-speed lines.

05/19/21

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office and the Office of Emergency service are planning to test the county Mass Notification Systems next week. That test will be from 12:00 pm until 1:00 pm on Wednesday, May 26th. Testing will focus on Wireless Emergency Alerts, new online resources, and new predefined evacuation zones. Officials want to be sure everything works right, just in case. They also want the public to know about the new online resources and evacuation zones. The Wireless Emergency Alert system is similar to the Amber Alert system, where you get a special tone and vibration on your mobile device. You will also get a short text message directing you to online resources. The emergency notifications would help the county respond any time the public has to take immediate action

Lake County Tourism Improvement District says visitors add a lot to the county economy. The district gave an update to the Lakeport City council Tuesday night, telling members travelers spent about 180 million dollars in the county in 2019. That added almost 13 million in state and local taxes and helped support 1,800 jobs. Most of those jobs—in food service and accommodation. District Communication person Brian Fisher says Lake County has seen significant growth in travel and tourism over the last few years. He also says 20-20 was a busy year in his office. Among last year's accomplishments — a new website, twice as many Facebook followers, a redesigned monthly newsletter, and more print advertising. This year's promotion plans include high-profile billboards in San Francisco and Sacramento. Fisher says the county is competing with other travel destinations with much bigger budgets and much more experience.

The Fourth of July is not that far off and Lakeport's police chief says his officers are ready for any complaints about illegal fireworks. Lake Co News reporting Chief Brad Rasmussen outlined his department's plan for the 30 days between June 17 and July 16 at this week's meeting of the Lakeport City Council. Lakeport's new fire chief also had input in that plan. It identifies several areas that were problems last year. Those places include parks, school district campuses, and areas around major shopping centers. Police will have extra patrols with a special team devoted just to illegal fireworks. The fire department will also be standing by. Chief Rasmussen says police are also gearing up for the larger city celebration on the Fourth. That celebration starts at 10:00 am at Library Park with vendors selling their wares, along with food and beverage booths. The fireworks display returns at dusk. Vendors who want to take part can find out more at the Lakeport Main Street Association website.

The Lake County Board of supervisors is backing a state child welfare initiative. The Lake County Record-Bee Reports the board has signed a letter of support for the proposal that would give parents of all five-year-olds a list of resources they can use and set up a new support network for pregnant women. State Senator Mike McGuire told commissioners at this week's meeting that the initiative would also provide more assistance for academically driven after-school programs aimed at low-income kids. McGuire says the plan would be a big boost to Lake County. McGuire and others in the senate want to spend 50 million dollars to get those programs up and running and another 100 million every year after that.

Heads up in Fort Bragg. The police department says officers will start enforcing two-hour parking in the Business District next week. Parking enforcement will primarily be in the downtown business area between Oak St. north to Pine St. and Main St. east to McPherson St starting on May 25th. On-street parking is limited to 2-hour from 9:00 am. to 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Sundays and Holidays are exempt. The police department wants merchants to remind their employees and visitors of the rules and ask them to use off-street parking. Otherwise, they could find a ticket tucked under the wiper.

The Fort Bragg City Council holds a special meeting next week. That session Monday night is for a discussion of the city cannabis ordinance. The virtual meeting starts at 6 on Monday night. The city website has the link and the agenda.

A woman charged for a crash that killed two people from Clearlake is mentally fit for a trial. Lake Co News reports that a Lake County judge says the case against 22-year-old Keilah Coyne of Novato can move forward. She is accused of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and other charges for the crash near Middletown on March 13th that killed Clearlake residents Elaine Rolichcheck and Miguel Dominguez. Coyne's lawyer had argued that his client may have been incompetent. That prompted a doctor's review which found Coyle is fit for a trial.

A man from Willits has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of two people back in April. Christopher Gamble is accused of shooting Ulises Ayala and Anwar Ayala, whose bodies were found at a marijuana farm in Brookdale, northwest of Willits, on April 26th. The Mendocino County DA has also charged Gamble with animal abuse for maiming, mutilating, torturing, or wounding chickens. The judge has yet to set a trial date.

2nd District State Senator Mike McGuire is hosting a virtual town hall to talk about the drought emergency. He says it will focus on state response to the upcoming dry season and unprecedented low water levels. Mendocino County C A O Carmel Angelo is among those expected to take part in that meeting Thursday night. It starts at 6:30. Senator McGuire's Facebook page has the sign-up details and the link.

The Ukiah Unified School District is giving out food today for any students under 18. That Wednesday weekly distribution is at Ukiah High and it runs until 6:30 this evening. Mask and social distance rules will apply. You can get more information from your child's school.

05/20/21

CHP has arrested two people after a chase involving a stolen vehicle. Officers say the chase started Tuesday night around 10 when officers tried to pull over a speeding Chevy Trailblazer on Highway 29, north of Park Way near Lakeport. The pursuit continued into Kelseyville, where the driver sideswiped a guardrail on Stone Drive but drove on until a crash into a wood post on Soda Bay Road. Police say the driver, identified as 19-year-old Nina Martin of Nice, then bailed. A passenger, identified as 24-year-old Joe Boggs of Lucerne, ALSO ran off in the other direction. Martin and Boggs didn't get far. Officers quickly arrested them. Turns out that the Trailblazer had been stolen from Chico. Martin faces several charges, including taking a vehicle without the owner's consent, receiving stolen property, and

disregarding an officer. Boggs is charged with resisting arrest and already had an outstanding warrant. They're both locked up without bail.

CHP has identified the motorcyclist killed a week ago in a crash on the Willits Bypass as a school bus driver from Oregon. Officers say Wayne Berry of Gold Beach, Oregon died when his motorcycle collided head-on with an oncoming vehicle around 3 AM on May 13th. The impact of the crash sent Berry's bike over the railing. The oncoming driver, Michael Confer, is facing 2 felony charges of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and DUI causing bodily injuries. He is in the Mendocino County Jail. Mendo Fever reports a Facebook post from the school district where Berry worked calls him a loyal employee who always put the students on his routes first.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office is still looking for a man known as the red-bearded burglar around Cameron Road in Elk and in Ukiah's western hills. Deputies have been on increased patrols in that area since a man shot at a deputy during an attempted break-in on May 11th. Sherrif Matt Kendall says investigators think he is the same person who has been lurking around and breaking into several rural cabins and homes since February. The Sheriff says the burglar, who had a red beard in some surveillance pictures, is likely avoiding people, preferring to break in when no one is around. If you know anything that might help find him, you can send your tip to the MCSO.

Remember last year when we did the Census they told us the count would help draw political boundaries for future elections? That

redistricting process is getting started. Lake Co News reports the California Citizens Redistricting Commission wants Lake County Residents to be involved in the map drawing. There aren't any meetings scheduled yet, because the commission hasn't even seen all the census data. There is a website wedrawthelinesca.org if you would like to get up to speed on the process. The work has to be done by December 15th. The Lake County Board of Supervisors has told the commission that Lake, Napa, and Sonoma Counties should end up in the same

congressional district because of their shared concerns. Under the Census, California will LOSE a seat in congress, which will make the redistricting process more difficult. Lake County Board of Supervisors will hash out ITS political divisions in a separate process. The board has hired a consulting firm to help.

The Fort Bragg PD is looking for volunteers to help out with the city Independence Day fireworks on July 3rd. Volunteers will team up with police and other department staff for parking enforcement, crowd control, and other law enforcement duties. You can contact the police department if you are interested. The display will go off from Pomo Bluff Park at dusk on July 3rd. Fort Bragg was one of the few communities that held a fireworks show last year.

CalFire says it has been a busy start to the wildfire season. So far, more than 2,400 fires have burned more than 14,000 acres across the state. At this time last year, just over 1,500 fires scorched 2,600 acres. Officials say that shows it is more important than ever to be aware of fire safety and have a plan in case a fire threatens near you.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services has issued a report on debris removal from last year's wildfires. The report finds that more than 80 percent of the burned metal, concrete, ash, and contaminated soil has been hauled away from properties enrolled in the state Consolidated Debris Removal Program. The OES also says most properties still need more tests to make sure they are safe for rebuilding. Erosion and hazardous tree conditions are the main issues there. The program covers about half a dozen properties in lake county that burned in the LNU Lightning Complex fires late last summer.

PG & E is planning a web seminar to outline its wildfire prevention plans for the upcoming fire season. The seminar on May 26th will feature utility officials talking about prevention, public safety power shutoffs, and improvements to PG & E systems. The session runs from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. The site for more information is

pge.com/wildfiresafety. The company says it will hold similar open meetings throughout the summer and fall.

The DMV is relaxing identification rules for people who have yet to get a new federally compliant license or identification card. That so-called REAL ID will eventually be necessary for getting onto a plane or into a federal building or military base. The new

requirements mean license applicants no longer have to show a social security card or a W-2 tax form. Now, all you'll need is a Social Security Number, proof of identity, and two proofs of California Residency. The DMV says it wants to make it as easy as possible to get the REAL ID well before the deadline. That deadline WAS October 1st but was recently pushed back to May 2023 due to the pandemic. YOUR current ID is good if there is a little gold star in the upper right-hand corner.

05/21/21

The US Drought Monitor's latest weekly report puts most of Lake and Mendocino Counties in the category of exceptional drought. That report also adds Napa and Marin counties to the exceptional drought zone. That is the highest of the five conditions of dryness. Much of the rest of California is now considered in extreme drought—one

designation below.

The exceptional drought is already stressing out the Eel River and surrounding waterways. The Eel River Recovery project says a river survey between the headwaters above Willits and Outlet Creek turned up only two fish. Other tributaries showed a similar lack of fish and no spawning because of low water. There were also several areas where algae blooms had choked out marine life. Those blooms can decrease oxygen, raise acid levels, and potentially turn the water toxic. The project says it all means that unless there is some unseasonal late spring or early summer rainfall, Tenmile Creek could dry up later in the summer. You can find out more about the health of the watershed on the website eelriverrecovery.org.

Lakeport wants residents to conserve water as the drought continues. The city relies on groundwater wells and treated water from Clear Lake for its supply. Both sources could be impacted if the dry conditions go on. Lakeport would like to see each customer voluntarily cut back by 15 to 20 gallons a day. Conservation tips include taking shorter showers, flushing the toilet less, watering plants less, and letting lawns go brown. The city website has more ideas on how you can save.

A Bay Area food truck and catering company wants to join with Mendocino County restaurants, anticipating what could be a long fire season. Off The Grid says its goal is to bring wholesome food to people who need it during fires and other disasters. The company also says it wants to boost local businesses when they are struggling too. Off the Grid wants to add more than 200 Food Responders across California, including in Mendocino County, bringing its fleet of small food businesses to more than 400. Those Food Responders could include restaurants, food truck operators, catering businesses, and cottage food purveyors. The company has already received national recognition for its program. You can find out more about that program on the website Offthegrid.com.

Governor Newsom has extended an executive order to prevent price gouging in counties affected by last year's wildfires. His order includes Mendocino County. It will stay in place until September 22nd. Price-gougers could face heavy penalties.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, County Behavioral Health Advisory Board, and County Measure B Oversight Committee will sit down together next week. That meeting is Monday afternoon at 1:00 PM and goes until 5:00 PM. The agenda includes discussion about whether or not to move ahead with a possible Mental Health Facility. Former Sheriff Tom Allman criticized the lack of action on mental health issues this week. He thinks the county has not done enough since voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B to pay for mental health services in 2017. The meeting will be virtual with no in-person public comment, but those interested can sign up to make online remarks through the county website. The session will also stream live on the county YouTube channel.

The Clearlake City Council has voted to move ahead with plans for a housing development on Burns Valley Road. That 50 million dollar project could mean as many as 84 multi-family homes. The council approved a negotiating agreement with the developer, Danco

Communities. The homes would go up on a 5-acre tract that is part of a larger 31-acre property the city closed escrow on in December. The city is also looking into a sports complex and a new Public Works yard on that land. Danco says its plans include mixed-use housing between one and four bedrooms. The firm says it plans to apply for disaster tax credits to cover most of the cost. The council approval vote was unanimous.

The Lake County Smart Start Bright Future initiative gets a virtual kickoff next month. State Senator Mike McGuire and Hope Rising of Lake County will outline plans for the program on June 4th. McGuire told the county Board of Supervisors this week that Smart Start Bright Future could make a huge difference to young people and their families. The event will focus on 4 parts of the initiative. They include a Smart Start Eligibility wizard, a resource navigator, academic-based after-school programs, and a platform for college success for high school graduates. While that meeting is free, signup is required. The website is smartstartbrightfuture.eventbrite.com. The Hope Rising Facebook page also has more information.

Vendors who want to sell food and non-alcoholic drinks at summer events in Ukiah can register for spaces starting June 1st. Those happenings include Sundays in the Park Concerts, Moonlight Movie Madness, and PumpkinFest The city says the best vendor spots get filled fast so if you are interested in being a concessionaire, it's a good idea to sign up early either online or at the Community Services Department. The first concert of this season will be held Sunday, July 11th in Todd Grove Park, the first movie available will be Friday, July 9th at Anton Stadium, and PumpkinFest will be held October 15th – 17th. The outdoor events themselves won't require masks, but patrons will have to mask up when waiting in line for food.

The Konocti Unified School District has named its classified employee of the year. Juan Hernandez is Lower Lake High School's campus supervisor. His co-workers say Hernandez stands out because of his positive demeanor and professionalism. The district also honored 9 other classified employees from each of the district school sites. Superintendent Becky Salato says those workers are the glue that keeps their schools together. The District website has the entire list.

05/24/21

Kind of like before times in Lake County as one of the oldest Memorial Day weekend celebrations is on this year. Lower Lake Daze is happening in person in downtown Lower Lake Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Lower Lake Community Action Group Board reports deciding in the last few months to bring Lower Lake Daze back this year with masking and social distancing recommended. The parade itself is at 11 a.m. Last year's event was one of the first to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lake Co News reports it's one of the first to return. Lake County Public Works says this is the first event application of 2021. Organizers say response has been positive. There will be a street fair from the post office to Mill Street after the parade with about 50 vendors.

An update's coming to the Lake County Board of Supervisors on the pandemic, as well as the Middle Creek restoration project, and possible appeal of a vicious dog abatement case in Lower Lake. The Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project report includes a letter of intent for the project to the Army Corps of Engineers. The appeal for the vicious animal abatement case involves three dogs owned by Brandon Strausser who county officials say killed a miniature horse and two goats and a baby deer while the dogs were loose. Neighbors sent in letters about the so-called "wolfdogs" who they say also killed sheep and chased horses.

If you drive an Uber or Lyft car in Calif. you're gonna need a new car. California will soon require all electric vehicles. Last Thursday the state Air Resources Board voted for all ride-hailing companies to use electric vehicles starting in 2023. And by 2030, there will have to be 90% of all miles driven in electric vehicles. It comes after the Gov. ordered all new gas and diesel cars be eliminated by 2035. The board says Uber, Lyft and the like can use several ways to get to electric, by doing more carpools and reducing "deadhead miles" driven without any passengers. The two companies say they'll help their drivers make the switch, paying another \$1 per trip and Lyft drivers can rent electric vehicles.

Another year of ecological stress because of the drought is hitting the Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP). On a fact finding mission a couple Sundays ago in Outlet Creek and the Tenmile Creek watershed around Laytonville, studies showed no fish in some areas and only a couple trout in others, out of 11 sites visited. Some areas had such low flows, spawning was not possible. Other areas like Outlet Creek at Bloody Run Creek and lower Long Valley Creek had thick algae blooms and no fish life. The blooms can cause dissolved oxygen depression, elevated pH and at times toxic levels of ammonia.

Authorities looking for more info on that deputy involved shooting in Elk a couple weeks ago. Sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement went searching for a man in Elk who they say was wanted for a burglary. They went door to door asking people along the South Coast of Mendocino County, Anderson Valley, Comptche and in Ukiah's western hills to be vigilant while out in the forest and to report any sightings of the man they're searching for. They're especially talking to property owners with remote cabins or property to be aware there could be more burglaries. They say if there's a burglary in progress at your property, not to approach, and just call police. They say the suspect is believed to be armed with at least one firearm. They're also hoping to identify the man in photos circulating online caught by a burglary victim's surveillance equipment. Deputies chased the man then, but had no luck after he fired at them. They returned fire, no injuries were reported.

05/25/21

Several charges leveled against a man in Ukiah after reports by Fort Bragg police of a stolen car. Last Wednesday, police told Mendo deputies where the car may be, so they responded to the home and saw the vehicle. A man got out, then ran to the back of a home. Deputies chased him through the home and searched it after the resident okayed it. The man hiding in a closet has been identified as Carlos Ogawa who cops say had that stolen car for two days. A witness also told officers he had a gun, which they found inside the home. He's arrested for Possess Stolen Vehicle/Vessel/, Possession Of Ammunition By A Convicted Felon, Possession Of A Firearm By A Convicted Felon and Carrying A Loaded Handgun/Not Registered Owner. He's held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A man found with ammo and burglary tools in Ukiah's been arrested. Police say Matthew Susmilch of Eureka, CA was stopped for an equipment violation and when he got out of his car, they saw illegal drug paraphernalia in the driver seat, so they searched for more. They found a live round of 12 gauge shotgun ammo inside the vehicle, a bunch of tools usually found to commit burglaries, plus he's a convicted felon so he's not allowed to have a gun or ammo. Susmilch was arrested for being a felon in possession of ammunition and for being in possession of burglary tools, but he was released on zero bail due to the COVID-19 bail schedule set by the State of California Judicial Council.

A drought declaration's already been passed by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors so now we're hearing from water suppliers about a 20% reduction in water usage. The county is asking residents to help too since they rely on groundwater mostly. And surface water diversions from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Project and Russian River are vulnerable due to drought conditions. We've been here before and may already know, let your lawns go brown and replace them with drought resistant plants or artificial turf, water deeply and less often and use mulch to minimize evaporation, use a broom, not a hose to clean up outside, put in water-saving showerheads and take shorter showers of five minutes or less, turn your water off as you brush your teeth and wash hands and check faucets, sinks, toilets and showers for leaks and repair promptly if necessary.

[For more water conservation tips as well as a detailed guide on how to identify and measure leak](#)

If you have any further questions, please call the Drought Hotline: (707) 234-6363.

The mass notification systems across Mendocino County are being tested by the Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Services. Tomorrow for an hour from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) activation protocols, new online resources, and new predefined evacuation zones are being tested. The systems would be used locally in the case of an actual emergency to alert residents and visitors so they need to make sure they're in working order. The Wireless Emergency Alert system is like the Amber Alert system where there will be a tone and vibration on your mobile device, that repeats twice. You'll also get a short text message directing you to online resources.

A woman from Laytonville says she saw a drone flying around so she reported it to her neighbors in the Long Valley area. Kym Kemp reports an employee of Tiffany Bruce reported a man outside in a minivan piloting the drone on Saturday. And when the pilot saw someone watching, they took off. The man was described as having short dark hair. He didn't have on a uniform, and the car he was in didn't have any specific identifying logo like he was working in an official capacity. The news site says they called PG&E and they had no info on the drone. Also the sheriff says sometimes drones are used for criminal activity related to cannabis properties. The whole incident was posted to the Laytonville/Branscomb Community Facebook page.

The Governor has added \$2 billion dollars to the state budget, strictly for wildfire mitigation. As the state continues to deal with another drought year, there were more than 900 more wildfires this year at this time, then during the same period in 2020. 2020 was already a history making year, with the first ever gigafire, the August Complex, which impacted 5 counties, including Lake and Mendocino. The mountains and foothills are also expected to be impacted this year again, with above-usual wildfire potential starting next month and possibly lasting until the fall. Cal Fire's prescribed burns are down this year though, around 40%. The Cal Fire Chief says they're the "best and most cost effective tool" for clearing overgrown areas and invasive non-native plants. But he says the whole of California is not ready for prescribed fire yet because it's not safe.

The mayor of Windsor, accused of sexual assault, harassment and even rape, has finally resigned. A group of residents was trying to get him recalled, but yesterday it came out that the former mayor, Dominic Foppoli, was being investigated by Palm Beach, FL police on suspicion of felony sexual battery. The court papers say he's accused of using his "hands/feet/teeth" as a weapon at a woman's home. The police report was released yesterday as Foppoli resigned via email to the Town Manager. He has also said last Friday he was going to resign as more claims from women came out. The latest by a well-known reality TV star, who was the ninth woman to say he attacked her.

Lake County has reportedly received a formal appeal from community members against the approval of a massive cannabis business in Middletown. The appeal looks to overturn the Planning Commission's approval for the cannabis business near the Hidden Valley Lake community. Now the Board of Supervisors will take up the matter of Zarina Otchkova, the owner of WeGrow LLC. She's said to be planning the business on part of a 309 acre property she owns that would include 35 greenhouses, four 50 by 100 foot drying buildings, a 200-square-foot shed, four 2,500-gallon water tanks and fencing. Total cultivation would be on nine acres. The appeal was filed last month by the Shadow Ridge Subdivision saying there were too many problems with the approval including inadequate water analysis, road maintenance, lighting, energy usage, sewage disposal, air quality and conformity with the Middletown Area Plan.

That vicious dog abatement case in Lakeport is being addressed at a special city council meeting. The meeting tonight at 5:30 online. Lake Co News reports Maria Anderson is appealing the issue regarding her two dogs, Bane and Bandit after multiple complaints about them over 15 months, including earlier this month. Some of the issues included the dogs being able to run loose, that they've killed ducks, rabbits, chickens and cats, and broke through a neighbor's fence and were aggressive toward an officer. There's also a 3rd dog, Cissy, that had been hit and killed because it was also allowed to run loose. There will be several witnesses at tonight's meeting from Lake County Animal Care and Control and Lakeport Police, and witnesses on behalf of Anderson as well.

A water company in Lake County is asking its customers to please conserve due to the drought. The drought declaration emergency by the governor, includes Lake, and Mendocino counties. Now Golden State Water Co. which covers Clearlake and other parts of the state, is asking customers to use water responsibly and make water conservation an important part of their everyday routines. Lake Co News reports California Water Service, serving Lucerne, has also asked their customers to conserve water. Some of the requests from water suppliers include sweeping, not hosing driveways, not to water lawns or gardens and consider replacing them altogether, not to wash cars with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle, stop using outdoor fountains or decorative water features, unless they're using a recirculating system and irrigate outdoors with potable water for ornamental turf on public street medians.

PG&E has sold its massive San Francisco headquarters complex. The \$800 million deal is part of the company's plan to move their main offices to downtown Oakland. A real estate investment firm purchased the headquarters. They now need to get approval to sell the property from the Public Utilities Commission. The company's CEO says they're trying hard daily to make fundamental changes and become the utility their customers expect and deserve. They also plan to return any profits from the sale to ratepayers. They say they'll consolidate all buildings to the Oakland location, and will start renovations there next year.

Unemployment is lower in Calif. The state's Employment Development Department reports 1.3 million jobs are reinstated or almost half the 2.7 million lost in March and April of 2020. The state has reportedly recovered 38% of jobs gained in the U.S. in April. California has added over 390,000 jobs after mass losses last winter due to a surge in coronavirus cases. The majority of the jobs regained were in hospitality, hotels, restaurants and at entertainment venues. But the state still has the second highest rate of unemployment behind Hawaii. And leisure and hospitality are still down over 500,000 jobs since the pandemic began.

05/26/21

At the Board of Supervisors meeting a comment about illegal marijuana grows in Covelo. Resident Ron Edwards asked if the Sheriff was on board with a recent eradication. Also Michael Katz from the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance spoke out on the county's facility's ordinance, but said they support cannabis sales and don't want to necessarily see it restricted. The organization wants cannabis sales at cannabis events like alcohol is allowed.

Katz also said they want a stand alone microbusiness permit of up to 10,000 square feet.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office has an update on vaccinations. Nearly 60% of adults in the county have had at least one dose of a COVID19 vaccine. They reported, before now, the county was recording about 15 new Covid cases/week and no new hospitalizations and deaths being rare. But the department says over the last two weeks cases nearly tripled, and more are in the hospital, calling it a possible surge. Testing is down so they can't quarantine or check for emerging strains. The health officer says even though the federal government and the state announced changes in mask mandates, it's important to keep wearing a mask as they've proven effective against the virus. Dr. Andy Coren says the county's in danger of another surge so it's important for more people to get vaccinated and to continue mask wearing in public, inside or outside, when you cannot keep 6 feet of distance from others not in your household.

Willits has a new police chief. Fabian Lizarraga was in the LAPD for almost 4 decades. He was already the Chief in Fort Bragg and retired and moved back to LA. But then he was asked to come back as interim Chief in Willits. He says while getting to know the community, he has seen how supportive they've been. He says it peaked his interest after he identified challenges and things that can be done, so he applied for the permanent position and was hired a couple weeks ago. He says his top priority will be to get the department fully staffed as the officers in place now are worn down from working overtime after 10 hours shifts. He also gave props to the city council for their support to raise wages and hire more people.

The federal government has given the green light to more wind turbines off the Calif. coast. The Biden administration has announced opening areas of the Pacific Ocean to offshore wind development for an expansion on renewable energy. The Governor says he supports the move so a couple of proposed windfarms about 20 miles off the coast of Morro Bay and Humboldt County can move forward. The turbines will float off the ocean and power over 1.5 million homes. The Dept. of Defense had opposed the Morro Bay Site, but they changed course saying the turbines could be built in ways that don't interfere with the military. But the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations says the technology is unproven and it's short sighted.

No school in Ukiah for the holiday weekend. The School District announced no class online, in person or otherwise Friday and Monday for the Memorial Day holiday. There's their free food distribution today for any child 18 or younger from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the high school. The food today is to help celebrate the holiday, with a BBQ, so the distribution could include chicken burgers, beef burgers, hot dogs, french fries, corn, potato chips, a variety of produce, and milk. They ask to please wear a mask and practice physical distancing when receiving food.

A man the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was searching for has been identified, but is still on the run. Deputies say it was William Evers they had a shootout with in Elk after a reported burglary. He's described as being armed and dangerous and wanted for criminal threats. His physical description, 40 year old White man, 6' 1", 180 pounds with brown eyes, brown hair and reddish facial hair. They report he has a skull or skulls tattoo on his right upper arm, a "Demon face" tattoo on his upper left arm and an unknown prominent tattoo on his chest. They've been looking for him after the officer involved shooting May 12th where he shot at a deputy. The last time it was confirmed he was seen, was in Elk, at the time of the attempted murder of the Deputy. There were also two residential burglaries 6 days later in the area and they suspect Evers of both. They say he's known to be comfortable in wooded areas and is suspected of using rural roads and logging roads to travel. They say if you see him, to just call 911 and not to approach him.

After a Ukiah cop noticed a car stopped blocking the driveway to a local gas station, they looked inside finding a man acting weird, and later, a dead dog. In the car was Aldar Fragoso, who the officer says was exhibiting bizarre behavior and had red stains on his clothes. Plus, they noticed congealed blood in the center console of the vehicle. The officer says Fragoso was uncooperative, and they were concerned for his safety as they noticed a pair of bloody pruning shears. Deputies, Paramedics, Firefighters, and Mental Health workers were all on the scene, but could not get the man to comply. He was also seen earlier in the day with a dog, but they couldn't find it so they tested the blood on the shears and it was not human. They searched the car and found a dead dog in a suitcase, so the man was arrested for animal cruelty and booked into jail.

After smoke was reported to have damaged wine grapes in Sonoma County a lawsuit erupts. The North Bay Business Journal reports grape grower Hugh Reimers is being sued by a Lake County winery over smoke damage. His lawyer says one of two buyers of Reimer's wine decided against the deal and sued saying tanks and barrels were damaged by smoke-tainted grapes and Reimers countersued saying that was bogus and another company was still buying his wine. So the judge sided with Reimers and said the wine could be sold but the money would be held in trust until the entire case was resolved. There's another court date set in the case for June 15th. Reimers is known as a top executive of Constellation, Jackson Family Winery and Foley Family Wines.

The interim Public Health Officer in Lake County says they're looking at ways to entice people to get the COVID19 vaccine. Dr. Evan Bloom reported yesterday to the Board of Supervisors the county was looking at ways to avert vaccine hesitancy and bolster access for people who can't get themselves to vaccination sites. He said it is possible to request getting the vaccine at home. They're currently targeting the 18-49 crowd as 66% are unvaccinated. Also those over 65+ at 40% unvaccinated. Dr. Bloom did report however that coronavirus case rates were the lowest they've been since the start of the pandemic, but the county would remain in the state's orange tier until the whole tiered system is tossed and all restrictions are lifted June 15th.

Congressman Jared Huffman has reintroduced his FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act (the FUTURE Act). It comes at a time of severely dry weather and drought. He says it's a water infrastructure deal which he's spent months on in public vetting and legislative development. He says it will bring a more resilient water infrastructure, expand the use of modern water management tools and technologies, and assist underserved areas in meeting their drinking water needs. Huffman commented as the country rebuilds from the pandemic, we're now facing devastating droughts and "we have to stop lurching from one crisis to the next". He says his bill will improve drought preparedness and water supply reliability in a changing climate with hundreds of millions in water infrastructure, sustainable, multi-benefit water storage projects, water recycling and reuse and innovative water desalination projects.

The Board of Supervisors is reportedly considering an independent audit of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department. The Advocate News reports some local social justice groups requested the audit Tuesday at the regular meeting. This came after the board discussed the latest on the pandemic. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Andrew Coren says COVID case positivity rates are the lowest to date, but there's been a surge in cases which he says, may be because of Mothers' Day gatherings. But the county also has one of the lowest testing rates in the state which could be an issue if there are outbreaks. Coren did say the vaccine numbers are decent and they're working on getting kids vaccinated. In other business they jumped to the possibility of that fiscal audit of the Sheriff's office as the department is trying to get more funding. The groups who want the audit include South Coast Organizing for Radical Equality and the Mendocino Chapter of Showing Up For Racial Justice and Black Lives Matter and the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community Justice Group.

The two dose vaccines in Mendocino County will soon be available for kids 12 and older. Until now the county's been giving the 2 shot regimen to adults and teens 16-17, but now those 12-15 are approved for the Pfizer vaccine. Starting today the Mendocino County Public Health says kids can get appointments at the county and state's vaccination websites. Plus, the county will continue vaccination events at schools. Also Adventist Health hospitals, community clinics, pharmacy chains, and Safeway have vaccine appointments available practically every day.

Fort Bragg police sent to a report of possible shots fired. Early yesterday morning police reported to an area where people say their house had been hit by bullets, officers found physical evidence at the location and identified a potential suspect. Later yesterday they served a search warrant and found possible evidence related to the incident which they're processing and sending on to the Department of Justice while the investigation remains active. At the same time they were asking residents nearby to look at any possible surveillance video for cars or pedestrians around the time of the shooting. They'd also like to find more witnesses to a physical altercation which may have happened Monday afternoon.

Governor Gavin Newsom's considering direct payments for households earning at or below \$75,000/year. The \$600 stimulus checks could go for back rent or utilities for those continuing to be impacted by the pandemic. Newsom says the state is "roaring back" with a surplus of over \$75.5 billion dollars. He says that is allowing the rebate idea, which would be the largest ever in state history. But as the governor faces a recall, the governor announced a \$12 billion dollar expansion of the stimulus program already in place, and another \$5 billion or so for low-income renters, \$2 billion to help pay overdue water and utility bills, and \$1 billion in college grants for workers whose jobs ended or are still on hold due to the pandemic so they can find better-paying work.

Looking for some extra work? The City of Ukiah Community Services Department has announced registration forms for concessionaires at Sundays in the Park Concerts, Moonlight Movie Madness, and PumpkinFest are now available. As we emerge from virus shutdowns, the first concert of this season is July 11th at Todd Grove Park. The first movie is just before that, on Friday, July 9th at Anton Stadium, and coming back this year, PumpkinFest will be held Oct. 15 — 17. All vendors will of course be mandated to follow current local health guidelines and ensure their patrons are following masks protocols. Applications can be found online at the cityofukiah.com/recreation and at the Community Services Department next Tuesday.

Since the drought is getting worse, it means the state's burning already. Wildfires have reportedly already charred 14,000 acres in California. That's over five times the acreage burned by the same time last year. There have been 2,340 fires this year, almost 1,300 fires and nearly 12,000 acres over the same period in 2020. Cal Fire reports most of the fires were contained to manageable sizes, but we're not really in the official fire season. Last year was historic with 4% of the state burning over 4 million acres. It also featured four of the biggest wildfires ever in the state. 33 people also died last year and more than 10,000 structures were destroyed. Cal Fire has hired nearly 1,400 more firefighters for the 2021 season.

05/27/21

900 landowners in Mendocino and Sonoma counties are being told they have to immediately stop taking water from the upper Russian River due to the drought. State regulators sending notice the river's not flowing enough to allow for any diversions for irrigation and household use which will be impacting grape growers, farmers and rural residents. The Governor stood in a parched Lake Mendocino as he declared a drought emergency for the two counties. That was followed soon after by most of the state. The Lake is supposed to help keep the water flowing in dry months, but it's only at around 41% of capacity compared to what it normally is this time of year. The water board's Division of Water Rights deputy director says if diversions are not reduced right now, Lake Mendocino could actually be empty by the end of the year.

Not what you think it was... the fire people saw and called in, in Geyserville was a controlled burn, thankfully. Firefighters intentionally started the fire off River Road and folks were calling in as they spotted it from the 101.

The California Legislature has advanced 3 criminal justice reform bills. One of them could take the badges away from crooked, or otherwise tainted police officers. The bill failed last year as it was presented at the time of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. It was believed at the time the bill needed revisions in the Assembly due to vague language. If it passes, it would make Calif. the 47th state to have such a law. Other bills advanced that reduced cash bail down to \$0 for misdemeanors and lower-level felonies, and limits criminal enhancements which add several years to offenders' sentences.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has to pay property taxes, like many in the state, AND franchise fees, for an expenditure of more than \$406 million. The money going to 50 counties, 246 cities and one district where the utility owns and operates gas and electric infrastructure. The company paid out nearly \$270 million dollars last month for property taxes covering the first half of the year. The franchise fees are so they can use public streets for its facilities. Lake County is getting just over \$960,000 for their taxes and Mendocino County is getting nearly \$2 million.

The Lakeport City Council's held their special meeting on an appeal of a dog abatement request, basically saving two vicious dogs. The owner was appealing after several complaints that her dogs killed other animals over 15-months. Maria Anderson owns Bane and Bandit which the Sheriff and the Lake County Animal Care and Control had declared vicious. That label meant she had to follow 10 requirements. When the order was issued the dogs were blamed for another attack on ducks after a rabbit was killed and chickens were attacked on the same property. Neighbors and animal control testified before the council. Many said the dogs attacked their pets, while the owner was sorry and wanted to get the dogs trained. The dogs are currently impounded, so the owner has to follow all orders before she gets the dogs back.

A new survey says when Californians have their choice, Gov. Gavin Newsom will not be recalled. The poll done by the non-partisan nonprofit Public Policy Institute of California. Recall organizers say he'll lose as some democratic leaders say the recall should be moved up, sooner than the fall. And the California Department of Finance reportedly sent out a letter to all counties to see if the recall election can be fast-tracked so counties can get their money back from this year's state budget. The agency is required by law to do a cost analysis for the recall. Recall organizers say Newsom is underestimating his chances. But the new poll showed 57% of voters would keep the governor if the recall election was held this month.

It's going to cost Pacific Gas & Electric another \$150 million dollars or so on top of the settlement they've already put up after causing several Northern California wildfires in 2017 & 18. The money now for bungling their intentional blackouts to prevent their crumbling infrastructure from causing more fires. The fines announced yesterday by California power regulators, \$106 million for mishandling the power outages in 2019, and the rest are settlements the company agreed to with governmental agencies in Sonoma, Tehama and Shasta counties, which were consumed by fires that were triggered by the utility's equipment during 2019 and last year.

Water districts across the state are imposing mandatory restrictions on usage. The Mendocino Voice reports Redwood Valley was the first water district in Mendocino County to mandate water use restrictions. The news site reports the manager of the Redwood Valley Water District cut agriculture connections last month. Now customers can only have 55 gallons of water/day per person. The district says without a lot of rain next year, there could be real trouble as they don't have secure water rights or sources, just one tiny, unreliable water right.

The State Water Resources Control Board has announced its restricting water diversions from the Upper Russian River Basin to protect fish habitat and drinking water supplies. The restrictions will impact so-called "junior" water rights holders that go all the way back to 1914 and beyond. It comes after the governor declared a drought emergency for Sonoma and Mendocino counties. The restrictions were just announced yesterday and could stay in effect until it starts to rain again and water flows are restored. Anyone caught violating mandates could face daily fines of up to \$1,000.

The majority of the state's district attorneys are suing to stop emergency rules to expand good conduct credits which could mean early release of tens of thousands of prisoners. 75% of the state's DA's filed the suit, objecting, they say, on procedural grounds that the Corrections Secretary used the emergency declaration to bypass the usual regulatory and public comment process. It could affect as many as 76,000 inmates, most inside for violent offenses. It could however take months or years until inmates gather enough good behavior credits to see any major change in their sentences.

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance has sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the recently revised cannabis cultivation ordinance. They basically agree with the Planning Commission's recommendations and say the discretionary land-use based permit program is necessary for "a sustainable, regulated cannabis economic sector" in the county. The letter says existing operators should also get a chance so they should be supported by the community at large so they don't end up going out of business. The Alliance recommends following the Planning Commission's major use permit expansion with reasonable limits on stacking licenses. And any possible expansion should be explored with an environmental review, but not happen during the drought emergency. They also wanted some language changed in the ordinance in accordance with the Planning Commission.

06/01/21

The Mendocino County CEO has a new/old assistant. The Deputy CEO Darcie Antle has been appointed as the Assistant Chief Executive Officer. She's been the Deputy since 2017 and also serves at the Disaster Recovery Finance Director and the COVID-19 Vaccine Coordinator. Before working for the county, she was at Adventist Health and the California Medical Group. She's also has been a professor at both Mendocino College and Mendocino County Office of Education and is a former president of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah. She says she's looking forward to working even closer with the CEO and the Board of Supervisors on initiatives and priorities that will move the County of Mendocino into the best position for the future.

A former inmate firefighter is now a full-time EMT. The man's lawyer petitioned the court so he could be an EMT and get his felony removed from his permanent record. A bill was signed at the beginning of the year to allow formerly incarcerated people to clear their records after completing fire camp and getting out of prison. They partner with Cal Fire for non-violent offenders in 44 fire camps throughout the state. This new EMT fought fires in 2019. He was in prison on drug charges. His lawyer did not release his name publicly. He says he'll work as an EMT in Calif and was the first in Mendocino County to apply for the program. His record was expunged in April.

Shopping malls across the state could soon be flipped into affordable housing complexes. That's if a group of legislators gets their way. The housing shortage has lawmakers considering changing some laws so zoning is no longer a barrier to turning malls into housing. The state senate passed a bill last week so developers could put up housing on most commercial sites without changing the zoning. There's another idea too, to pay local governments to change the zoning so developers can put up affordable housing. Last year a similar bill was considered to override local zoning laws so developers could build small apartment buildings in neighborhoods zoned for single-family homes, but it failed in the state Senate.

A special hearing is being held by the Mendocino Board of Supervisors on the continuing discussion of whether or not to adopt a new Commercial Cannabis ordinance. The hearing tomorrow, bypassing their regular meeting today to discuss and take possible action to introduce and waive the first reading of the ordinance adopting the new way to do business related to commercial cannabis activity land use and add any possible amendments to the ordinance. They'll also discuss and take possible action to direct county staff to draft tax relief for licensed cultivators on 10,000 square feet and less and increase the tax for larger farms in a revenue neutral way.

Mendocino County Code Enforcement officers out at several commercial cannabis farms found without permits. Those found guilty had to yank their plants. The first in Redwood Valley where officers found 118 plants which were taken out. Then two more in Ukiah, one only had 25 plants, but the second had 265 plants abated. The code enforcement officers also reportedly planned to continue taking action against non-licensed growers. They're responsible for all Cannabis and General Code Violation complaints in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Be on the lookout for tree work on West Perkins Street. It's happening tomorrow between North Spring Street and North Hortense Streets from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. That means West Perkins Street will be closed between North Spring Street and North Hortense Street so you'll have to choose an alternate route during the hours the street is closed. The city says they're sorry for any inconvenience.

Even though we've been in the midst of a pandemic, students from Kelseyville High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) kept busy. And the school has announced their principal, Mike Jones, was chosen as the 2021 North Coast FFA Region Star Administrator. High schools offering the FFA program have to have a certified and approved agriculture program. They still participated in 2020 in the Lake County Fair, winning 1st in the Grand Champion Market Steer and Showmanship, Grand Champion for Market Hog and more. Four students got their State FFA degree too.

Willits police doing a regular traffic stop on a car and found a bunch of meth. The police dept. reports one of their officers stopped a car on Main St. last Friday night and found the driver with about three to four pounds of packaged methamphetamine and another three pounds of processed marijuana. Travis Ninnemann of Arizona was the driver and Julius Gruber of Willits was the passenger. Both were arrested for conspiracy to commit a crime, possession of a controlled substance for sale, transportation of a controlled substance for sale, transportation of meth for sale and transportation of marijuana for sale.

A proposal is being tossed around the Lakeport City Council to potentially allow wild pig hunts on city sewer district property. The meeting tonight will look at allowing the hunts in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife because there are apparently wild pigs running around on the property. They use the land to dispose of treated wastewater and there are also sprinkler fields they use the water for grass where cattle graze. There's a lease agreement for the land use already, and now the pigs are also coming over to graze and are apparently destroying the property. So the city contacted the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and were told they should consider designating the land for controlled hunting purposes. The city council will also discuss having their July 4th celebration this year, after skipping last year due to the pandemic.

PG&E's having an online town hall on wildfire prevention, public safety power shutoffs and resources so you can prepare for this wildfire season. Tomorrow at noon, you can hop online and talk to the utility company and hear the latest news. Company representatives will be on hand to talk about reducing wildfire risks throughout the service territory.

[To access the virtual safety town hall or view recordings of past wildfire safety webinars, you can](#)

A shooting is being investigated in Lucerne. It happened Sunday night before 10, bringing deputies and firefighters to a home after reports of a shooting. It took about a half hour to get an air ambulance to get the victim to Sutter Lakeside Hospital because no other choppers were available. The victim was flown to an out of area hospital and was last reported in stable condition. There have been no arrests.

An underage drinking enforcement sting rounded up some folks in the so-called shoulder tap operation in Lakeport. Police along with the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control went out May 22nd. A police officer posed as a minor to try to get adults to buy booze for them. Police officers say they approached 28 adults and a man from Cloverdale, Donald Johnson was arrested, then given a citation and allowed to leave. The penalty is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

A drought declaration has been passed by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors so all water suppliers will implement mandates on conservation. Most residents in the county use groundwater, but diversions from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Project and Russian River are super low this year. As we've been reporting some of the things you can do to help, let your lawns go brown or replace them with artificial turf or drought tolerant species, water deeply and less often and use mulch to minimize evaporation, use a broom instead of hose to clean driveways and patios, install water-saving showerheads and take shorter showers, turn water off when brushing teeth and washing hands, check faucets, sinks, toilets and showers for leaks and repair promptly if necessary. For more info, www.mendocinocounty.org/droughtwaterconservation or call the Drought Hotline: (707) 234-6363.

06/02/21

A group of Democratic lawmakers and advocates are urging the passage of an Emergency Food Assistance Bill. Assemblymembers Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles), Mike Gipson (D-Carson), Carlos Villapudua (D-Stockton) and Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) had a press conference on the bill which has passed the Assembly. It would provide \$600 of emergency food assistance to low-income Californians impacted by the pandemic. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) and the Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP) are all sponsors. The lawmakers say the pandemic and resulting recession have left many in Calif. challenged to pay their rent, buy groceries and take care of other basic necessities.

On Memorial Day weekend, it became clear, Lake Sonoma, was hit by the drought. The Army Corps of Engineers reported 400 vessels on the water body this past weekend. They had new regulations though because the lake is at historically low levels, exposing underwater hazards, in some cases, almost above the surface. The Corp. has extended the no wake zones to all areas, except where it's wide and deep behind Warm Springs Dam. So it can get crowded in the only areas where water skiers, wake boarders and other users wanted to go at a high rate of speed, Dry Creek arm. Same over at Lake Mendocino, but it's closed to motorized boats and has been since last August. Lake Sonoma is at 57% of its seasonal capacity.

State Senator Scott Weiner of San Francisco is looking to get certain drugs decriminalized so they can be used for research and medicinal purposes. Wiener wants to decriminalize psychedelic drugs; he says because they've been shown to be able to aid in mental health issues and addiction. His bill, introduced in February, covers several drugs including psilocybin or magic mushrooms, DMT, mescaline, LSD, ketamine, and MDMA. The bill would legalize the drugs for anyone over 21 but could not be used or possessed on school grounds. It also looks to put together a research panel to hold hearings on projects that look at the use of cannabis or hallucinogenic drugs.

A driver in Ukiah pinned under his car had to be helped out by firefighters. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reported the driver got stuck after rolling into a ditch after a crash. He was found by a local, off-duty paramedic. The car had to be hoisted onto blocks, then rescuers used the Jaws of Life to free the man. The CHP reports the 34 year old from Ukiah had major injuries and had to be airlifted to a hospital in Santa Rosa. The crash is not being blamed on alcohol or drugs and the driver is not in trouble with the law.

Another car crash, but the people who were in the vehicle split the scene. The CHP reported it overturned in Covelo bringing out patrol officers, Covelo Fire, and Round Valley Tribal Police. A tow truck was called to remove the car from a ditch.

The Lakeport City Council has heard about the problem with wild pigs at the city's sewer property. The city council considered the issue at their meeting last night, looking to enter a contract with the Department of Fish and Wildlife through the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement, or SHARE program. The agreement would allow the city the right to have wild pig hunts on the Sewer District property which was grassland watered with treated wastewater where cattle had been grazing. The city council decided they'd continue to look into the solution before agreeing to the hunts. But the pigs have reportedly been tearing up the area and triggering neighbor complaints.

After the former mayor of Windsor resigned due to multiple sexual assault, abuse or harassment claims against him the Town Council will meet for the first time. Former Mayor Dominic Foppoli resigned last week after the latest complaint, this one from a reality star living in Florida, who says Foppoli raped her. The town council meeting tonight will feature a brief nod to the resignation then they will decide how to fill the spot, either an appointment or a special election. If they decide to just fill the spot, then whoever is chosen will no longer be a town councilor, so that spot will also need to be filled. Then applications would have to be accepted and so on. They could also appoint the second place finisher to the Mayor's race last time.

Even as the state looks to fully reopen businesses in a couple weeks, Sonoma County will remain, until that time, in the orange tier. When the state reopens June 15th, there will be no more tiered system. Sonoma County is currently dealing with a moderate rate of COVID19 transmission. The Sonoma County Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says there's been a recent uptick in cases from young adults not vaccinated. She says it sends a message to get the vaccine since all of the cases are in those who are unvaccinated between the ages of 18-to-34. She does say, other than that, that the outlook is positive. Almost 60% of the county's population is fully vaccinated and 12% more have had at least one shot. Mase says that has greatly reduced virus transmission in the county.

Senator Alex Padilla on an infrastructure listening tour has visited Calif.'s power grid in Folsom. Last summer were more intentional power downs and blackouts so there's a campaign to stop it. Padilla at California ISO Tuesday talking up the so-called Power On Act, which could mean funds to improve the power grid. The California ISO reportedly added around 3,500 more megawatts to supply capability this year though. The agency says this will address the lack of power when it's needed. Padilla says so if there have to be public safety power shutoffs, over time, it can happen in more targeted areas, not such wide swaths of the state.

As we head into the driest part of the year and deal with another year of drought, a reminder from the California Water Board, if you divert water from any water body and put it into a truck you have to have a valid water right. The agencies say, if you don't, you could be fined and cited. The fees range from \$500 to \$1,000 a day during a drought year, and \$2,500 per acre-foot of water diverted—by the State Water Board and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The penalties include up to a year in jail, and a \$2,000 fine. The water board doesn't generally act as law enforcement unless it impacts water quality and water supply.

Just like every year gas prices go up around Memorial Day and tend to come back down around Labor Day or the end of the holiday traveling season. But a new report by AAA says gasoline prices are at a seven-year high with a gallon of gas averaging just over \$3/gallon across the country. Up about .15¢ from a month ago and nearly \$2 from a year ago. But here in Calif. we're at about \$4.20 a gallon. Hawaii's just behind us at about \$3.93 a gallon and other West Coast states are pretty high too, including Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Utah. The cheapest in the south, under 3 bucks in places like Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

06/03/21

A man in Piercy has been arrested after an assault on his mom. The Sheriff's Office reports getting a call to a home where a man says he was awakened by his son yelling at his mother. When the man got out of bed, he saw his son, Anton Kloiber squatting over his mom as she lay on the floor, hitting her in the head with a blunt force object, he then threw it at dad and ran away. Mom was taken to a hospital and Kloiber was found nearby at a gas station and arrested for Assault With a Deadly Weapon and violation of Post Release Community Supervision out of Mendocino County. A judge was contacted later and an Emergency Protective Order and Bail Enhancement was secured. Kloiber's being held on \$500,000.00 bail.

A package of wildfire related bills authored by State Senator Bill Dodd have been approved as another potentially destructive season arrives. Dodd's office announces the bills will enhance the state's ability to prevent, prepare for and respond to future infernos. The bills which now head to the Assembly, were overwhelmingly passed by the Senate. One will create an Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development to study, produce and test new equipment to fight wildfires; the next to encourage more controlled burns across the state, making insurance more accessible for professional burn bosses.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Drought Ad Hoc Committee is meeting for a virtual town hall. A week from today at 4:00pm, Supervisors John Haschak and Glenn McGourty are hosting the virtual Countywide Drought Task Force Meeting with an update on discussions with community partners and staff. Members of the public will get an update and will be able to share any recommendations they have with the Ad Hoc Committee.

To join via Zoom, click the link: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/89729587112?pwd=ZVh2Sk>

Passcode: 665233

The webinar will also be streaming live on the County's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo>) and the County's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/>).

For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Executive Office at (707) 463-4441

He's at it again, the owner of a Mendocino coast restaurant is defying pandemic safety protocols. This time, he's charging \$5 for those who enter Fiddleheads wearing a mask. The cafe in the town of Mendocino was even closed down a couple of times and fined for disobeying COVID19 lockdown measures for restaurants. Owner Chris Castleman has posted a sign outdoors that says his policy is, if you wear a mask, he'll charge you \$5, and if you mention being vaccinated, that's another \$5 hit. It comes after he faced fines and citations from the County regarding masking protocols last year. This spring he also offered 50% off your bill if you came in and threw out your mask upon entering. Castleman says all the money he makes on his protocols will go to charities who suffered fallout from lockdowns. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Doctor Andy Coren disagrees and says Castleman getting media coverage could interfere with the county's fight against the virus.

The Mendocino Volunteer Fire Dept. working with experts from the California Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito to help an injured sea lion at Portuguese Beach. A spokesperson for the Marine Mammal Center says the animal had "multiple facial injuries" and was being checked out to see how old it was, its gender, overall condition, examine its facial injuries and check for any other health abnormalities. Rescuers needed to work with firefighters due to the terrain. They sent a metal carrier down to the beach to hoist the sea lion up with.

A facelift for the downtown plaza in Ukiah. A report says the area needs cleaning and painting in several areas after finding mold and graffiti in several places and being unsuccessful at removing it. So the city has a power wash planned along with some primer, and anti-graffiti topcoat of quality paint.

A state of emergency has been declared by the Karuk Tribe in the Klamath Basin due to the ongoing drought. The tribe says it could end in the loss of an "an entire generation of salmon." They say they found dead young salmon in their monitoring traps and the ones that were still alive were infected with disease. The fisheries is monitored each year along the Klamath by biologists who check for a deadly pathogen *Ceratonova shasta*, or *C. shasta*. So they trap fish for testing. This year they say up to 97% of their samples of juvenile salmon tested positive for the disease.

The number of residents in Lake County is down. According to a new state report the lowest level in 14 years. Lake Co News reports it's happening at the same time the state's population also went down. The data from the California Department of Finance's annual demographic report. It says there were about 182,000 less residents last year. And as of this past January 1st, the state's population was at 39,466,855 with negative growth of -0.46% in 2020. It also said Lake County's population was down -0.1% at 63,940 as of Jan. 1st, the lowest since 2007. Mendocino County was also down, -1.2% and Sonoma was off -1.5%. The report says the declines year over year were due to deaths, immigration policies and deaths due to the pandemic.

The Lakeport City Council's preparing for July 4th celebrations. At the meeting Tuesday, they approved an application for a celebration with pandemic safety protocols in place. Last year the event was canceled for obvious reasons. But the number of COVID cases have been down as of late, allowing the state to fully reopen June 15th. So city staff have been working on a modified event the last several months. The city manager says it's been a group effort. There will be a larger area for fireworks so they can ensure social distancing and in an area with more visibility. No alcohol will be allowed. The vote to approve the celebration was unanimous.

Still mired in a backlog of unemployment claims, the state's been unable to catch up for a month and a half. So some people are reportedly paying private companies to get through to the constantly busy Employment Development Department's phone lines. The San Francisco Chronicle is also reporting some non-English speakers are paying intermediaries to fill out their unemployment applications and continue to follow up each two week cycle. The agency had supposedly been working to shorten wait times, but some are still paying for robocalls to hold their place in line. At the same time a judge has ordered Bank of America, which uses debit cards to pay unemployment in California, to stop using a fraud filter and reopen denied claims.

The biggest state worker union in Calif. has approved giving the Governor's recall fight a \$1 million boost. SEIU Local 1000 represents 96,000 state workers. The board of directors of the union approved the large donation yesterday to help win the recall election for the Governor. The Union president called for an emergency meeting of the union's board of directors last week because she lost the presidency after her opponent said the union shouldn't support Newsom. The new president takes over this month. He will need the board of directors support to oppose the recall. 44 people on the board voted to support the massive donation, nine voted against and five abstained.

No more restrictions on churches as far as the virus goes, but the state has to pay over \$2 million dollars in fines to lawyers who challenged the safety protocols in houses of worship at the height of the pandemic. In a deal approved by a federal judge earlier this week, a permanent injunction was ordered that said restrictions on houses of worship cannot exceed those on retail businesses. But the case rate is way down now, so it doesn't really do a lot as it relates to COVID-19. All restrictions in the state will be lifted June 15th. The Governor's office however has put out a statement that said Newsom put the health of Californians first when imposing church closures and capacity limits.

Assemblymember Jim Wood's bill for affordable health care has passed the State Assembly and moves to the Senate. The California Health Care Quality and Affordability Act will start the Office of Health Care Affordability to analyze the health care market for cost trends and what the spending drivers are, the come up with policy to lower health care costs so it's more affordable. If it passes and all health care companies have to provide info on their plans. Something like this is already in place in six other states, and Wood's office says it's showing results and moderated health care costs.

06/04/21

The campaign finance watchdog in Calif. is now joining others, investigating the former mayor of Windsor. Former Mayor Dominic Foppoli is under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct, harassment and rape, now he's being accused of bribing a town council member not to run against him. Rosa Reynoza alleges Foppoli offered money if she wouldn't run for office a year ago. Reynoza says Foppoli had raised a lot of money. The two met at a coffee shop last June where Foppoli said Reynoza had no chance of winning and offered her other positions. She told him no and has texts to prove it.

The California Public Utilities Commission is ordering state utility companies, including PG&E to pay up and fix issues after bungled public safety power shutoff events. The CPUC says Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric all didn't follow their stipulated guidelines for several of the 2019 power downs during wildfire weather. Some of the things the utility companies will have to do now follow guidelines by the state, improve customer communications, train staff on standard emergency management systems, file annual reports that show progress and make sure to report to the commission within 10 days of any event.

The vote regarding a big chunk of land to be donated in Ukiah has been tabled by the Planning Commission. City staff requested the commission hold off on the talk about donating the land in the Western Hills for open space preservation, but there could also be low density housing allowed on part of the 700 acres. The Planning Commission was supposed to talk the plan over, but city staff said they needed more time to review public comment and recommended a continued public hearing on the matter. Apparently, the city got about 20 letters from the public many with concern about the housing idea.

A man accused of DUI with his child in the car has been arrested. Police say they got a report of a crash May 21st and found a gray Kia sedan had swiped two parked cars then took off. Police say the man had his teenager in the car with him who he had just picked up from Ukiah High School. Lincoln Chalmers was drunk police say, after they conducted sobriety tests. His blood alcohol content measured three times the legal limit. So he was arrested for driving under the influence, hit and run, and felony child endangerment. But he was freed due to the pandemic. He will have to report back for his court date.

Allegations of harassment and intimidation just that the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce says so they won't be investigating. The Advocate News reports finding out from the Chamber the allegations against board president, Ray Alarcon are considered a personnel matter and they Chamber says because of that they're not allowed to discuss it. The newspaper reports it's not a violation of labor laws to discuss if there might be an investigation. The former CEO claims, in her resignation letter, that there was a climate of constant harassment and discriminatory behavior. She says she spent years trying to resolve the issues, but the board chair says they've done a lot of investigating and have received no response or information from the former CEO. Several board members also resigned in solidarity with the CEO.

06/07/21

The Mendocino County Public Health Office out with a warning: COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise again. The Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren says we are in another surge with daily average cases at 8 or more a day per 100,000 residents. The most cases are concentrated in Ukiah, Redwood Valley, and Willits. And outbreaks are reported at the Office Bar & Bistro and The Pub with three confirmed cases among customers who were there on either May 22nd or 23rd. So if you were there a couple of weeks ago, you should get tested. Dr. Coren says there was also an unrelated death to those businesses. He says to get tested even if you have mild symptoms and to frequently be tested if you're not vaccinated.

A woman in Fort Bragg has been arrested, held on thousands of dollars bail for illegally growing marijuana and having outstanding warrants. Sheriff's Deputies served the arrest warrant Saturday, contacting Rachel Hunt at the home. The warrants were for the illegal grow and violating probation. She's held on \$15,000.00 bail.

Konocti Unified School District has graduated their first Middle College group: Rafael Contreras, Domminic Mayer, and Viviana Ramos. The trio took college courses instead of high school elective courses as part of a partnership with the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College which started in the fall of 2017. Students are allowed to take two college classes a semester, so by the time they graduate, they've accumulated 48 college credits. These three were able to get their Associate of Science degrees in Natural Science and Mathematics. And Contreras and Ramos are co-valedictorians, and Mayer was named KEC High School Student of the Year.

A man in Willits has been arrested after reports of a domestic violence incident. Deputies reported to the home over the weekend, finding the female victim in front of the home with Anthony Cape. She says the two were living together and a fight got physical, with him pushing her and tackling her to the ground. Deputies say she was also slapped in the face and had visible injuries on her face, hands and knees. Cape was arrested for felony domestic violence battery and since he was on probation he was jailed on \$25,000 bail. He was additionally charged with violating probation.

An abandoned derelict motor home off the 101 in southern Mendo County has been removed. The motor home has apparently sitting there partially hidden near barriers placed by Caltrans to block a dirt access road. They say the vehicle was parked there at least two years. The DA says the roof of the RV was collapsing and came to find it was probably an environmental hazard and a public nuisance. Calls to the Mendocino County Building and Planning Department and Caltrans ended with the barriers to the dirt road removed, and the trash filled RV was towed out. They're looking into who left the RV there as they could be responsible for towing funds.

A man who used to live in Ukiah and has a long criminal record has been sent to prison for life for various crimes including domestic violence, assault with a deadly weapon, battery with serious bodily injury and dissuading a witness by means of threats or force. Raymond Jones had other crimes on his record so the judge agreed to sentencing enhancements after former felony convictions for robbery and residential burglary in the San Joaquin County Superior Court, within the Three Strikes law. The prosecution was arguing for 25 years as the defense said the 3 strikes law shouldn't be considered. In the end, the sentencing recommendation by the Probation Department was followed and Jones ended up getting 114 years, 4 months to life in state prison.

A 30 year ban on assault weapons in Calif. has been overturned by a federal judge in San Diego. The judge said the state's definition of illegal military style rifles was unlawful, and deprived law abiding citizens weapons commonly allowed in other states. Meanwhile, the Gov. called it "a direct threat to public safety and the lives of innocent Californians, period." The judge likened assault rifles to the Swiss Army knife, calling an AR-15 rifle a perfect combination of home defense weapon and homeland defense equipment. Good for both home and battle.

15 lucky and newly vaccinated Californians are \$50,000 richer, including one person from Mendocino County. The Gov. was at California State Lottery headquarters Friday as he encouraged all Californians to continue getting COVID19 vaccines ahead of the state's official reopening, June 15th. But vaccine rates are off 18% from a week ago, thus the state lottery. And 10 people will also receive \$1.5 million each — the largest of any vaccination prize in the country.

It finally ended peacefully... the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and a SWAT team was on the scene of a standoff with a man they said may have been armed in the Coyote Valley Rancheria. Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall talking to the press as law enforcement teams gathered to try to talk the guy out of the home. Deputies were trying to arrest Tiny Whipple for the manufacture of firearms and other violent offenses but say when they tried to get him into custody, he ran to the back of a home and hid in a shed. He is not a tribal member and was banned from the tribe in 2015. Apparently before the standoff, Whipple had been quoted saying he wanted a shootout with cops.

A bunch of illegal cannabis, illegal water use and environmental crimes cited in a case from Willits earlier this month. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife reportedly served a search warrant the second week of May along with an Environmental Scientist from the agency, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, a North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board representative and Mendocino County Code Enforcement. There was no state license to grow weed at the property and environmental violations were cited, including there being a manmade dam that was impacting the natural stream flow, illegal water diversion used to irrigate cannabis plants, sediment placed where it can pass into waters of the state, unpermitted stream crossings, cultivation areas with deleterious materials located near waters of the state. In the end more than 4,100 illegal cannabis plants were eradicated and over 75 pounds of processed cannabis was destroyed.

The Governor insists he won't be lifting the coronavirus state of emergency on June 15. The state is reopening, but there will still be some restrictions in place. The state of emergency afforded Newsom broad authority for state laws and regulations. He says he won't end the state of emergency because the virus "is not taking the summer months off." Republicans have been trying to get that overturned for months with no luck as Democrats in the majority have continually blocked their efforts.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will reconsider a permit for a big marijuana grow by Hidden Valley Lake. At the same time the board will talk drought and what to do about water trucks taking water from Clear Lake. The owner of WeGrow is trying to get her cannabis growing operation approved on a small chunk of her 309-acre property in Middletown. It's just next to Hidden Valley Lake on nine acres. She's proposing 35 greenhouses, four 50-foot by 100-foot drying buildings, a 200-square-foot shed, four 2,500-gallon water tanks and fencing. The board, like every other week will also hear about the pandemic from Public Health officials and hear an appeal again on a Vicious Animal Abatement case.

The search for a missing man in Clear Lake has been continuing after a boating accident. Early Saturday morning reports of a man in a boat with four others offshore of Clearlake Oaks. The boat overturned just after midnight, then reports came in of a missing Black man in his 50s who had apparently tried to rescue someone else, then vanished himself. The boat was found near the Clearlake Oaks boat launch. The Lake County Sheriff reported to Lake Co News the Marine Patrol was searching with no luck on Saturday and into yesterday.

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry's Internet for All Act has passed the Assembly. The bill would change the way broadband is supplied under the California Advanced Services Program. It would be bolstered with more money to bring the state into the technological 21st century. Aguiar-Curry says even before the pandemic, which shone a glaring light on the lack of reliable, affordable internet, we knew access was an essential requirement. A matching Senate Bill also passed to hopefully provide all Californians fast enough internet so they can access services like Telehealth, education and job-training. The Internet for All Act prioritizes broadband in the most vulnerable and unserved rural and urban communities.

A massive effort to have Governor Newsom's back as he faces a recall election. Workers and union leaders at the California Labor Federation, which includes over 2 million state workers are working to defend Newsom as he works with unions to quickly get essential workers vaccinated. Thousands from the union are working on the campaign to keep the Gov. in office. They will walk precincts and knock on doors, meet face-to-face with voters regarding stopping the recall. They will also make phone calls and have outreach in various languages including, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.

A Northern California Coalition, including Tribal, local and regional environmental organizations and individuals are calling for a 2-year moratorium on logging in Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Kym Kemp reports there's a petition circulating until there's a new environmental impact report. The last one was drafted in 2007. Among the considerations the group is asking for: consideration of climate change impacts to and mitigation potential of the forest, acknowledging how the economy has changed in Mendocino County, guarantee of equitable access for all, emphasizing outdoor education for youth and adults and more low-impact recreation which won't pose a threat to Native American Cultural Heritage.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will meet on the latest with the pandemic with the Public Health Officer. Like every week Dr. Andy Coren will present to the board, but this week may be different, as we've experienced another death and a mini outbreak at two restaurants. They'll also discuss a re-establishment of the Mendocino County Water Agency as a Stand-Alone Agency with room for Public Health and Safety Issues Related to Drought Response and other Critical Tasks. And there's a special budget meeting this week, so the board will take some time on that. And they'll look at possibly boosting staff in Code Enforcement, the Sheriff's Office, County Counsel, and Cannabis Program, for Cannabis Complaints and Enforcement, Aligned with the Humboldt Model

06/08/21

After a search warrant was served in Laytonville, for possible deer poaching and illegal marijuana growing, environmental hazards noted and a bunch of cannabis eradicated. Wildlife officers from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife with the search warrant last week. They found there was no state license for marijuana cultivation at the site which was near tributaries to Rattlesnake Creek and Tenmile Creek, each of which feed the South Fork Eel River watershed. Steelhead, Chinook salmon and the Foothill Yellow Legged Frog all live in the water bodies and environmental violations on stream dams were found. There were also multiple, unpermitted, undersized and stream crossing culverts installed to get to cannabis grows. There was also sediment found from the unpermitted culverts. They found more than 2,700 illegal cannabis plants, which were yanked from the ground, 24 pounds of processed cannabis and 187 pounds of shake, which were all destroyed. Possible wildlife poaching evidence was found along with ammunition and high-capacity magazines. A formal complaint is being filed with the Mendocino County District Attorney's office.

PG&E says they have support for customers and communities related to their Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). The utility company has been known to shut off power during red flag weather warnings for public safety. They will do it again as needed to protect the public if high winds cause trees to come into contact with their equipment. They plan to be in closer touch with customers through alerts which they say they will send in 16 languages, provide specific address alerts, expand their network of event ready, ADA accessible indoor resource centers with stations for basic medical equipment charging, device charging, Wi-Fi and other amenities. They will also provide more meal replacements, water for those on well water and help communities get their own electric microgrids.

The Lake County Cannabis Alliance had their first job fair for county residents. Last Saturday in Lower Lake the Alliance hosted the fair to get people interested in the industry. They say there were positions available in cultivation, production, distribution, sales, manufacturers and ancillary businesses. They offered lunch to attendees and speakers talking about the legal cannabis industry. The association announced a new partnership with Management Connections, a staffing agency in Lakeport who they're working with to help them recruit qualified local employees.

Mendocino Code Enforcement upping the ante, charging fines of up to \$25,000/day for a property north of Ukiah for having a commercial marijuana grow not following all the rules. The staff from the agency went to the site in the 400 block of Hardwick Lane earlier this month where they say there was a "non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation" operation that had 100 plants "in non-permitted structures without a County Cultivation Permit or State Cultivation License." The fines included, non-permitted structures, violating the County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance and a one-time \$20,000 fine that amounts to a \$200 "per plant" penalty for non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation.

Congressman Mike Thompson says he's asked for over 2 million dollars to pay for the chip seal project in Lake County. The request to help roads in Lakeport, Kelseyville, Cobb Mountain and Hidden Valley was in the latest infrastructure package the Democrats are trying to get passed. It's supposed to have revisions added later this week in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The work on 55 miles in the Congressman's district. He says he secured just over 19 million as part of the Member Designated Project program and it's now being considered in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It has to get a green light by the full House and Senate before going to the President.

The Yuba College District says they're adding more in person learning opportunities. Starting this month they started a phased in return to face to face operations and expect to be fully operational in person for the fall semester in August. They didn't totally close during the pandemic, same for Woodland Community College, but they were mostly online with some limited in-person learning. But starting last week, the school started its Summer Session work, students return Monday for the session which lasts through August 5th. Offices are open at both colleges now, practically all day long Monday through Thursday. There's also federal aid money available from pandemic related financial aid packages.

More information has come out about that boat that capsized on Clear Lake where a man was reported missing. Lake Co News reports a woman fell out of the boat and her fiancé, who was trying to rescue her went in after her. They both died. 51 year old Webster Medley III and 50 year old Novia Walton, of Fresno died Saturday after their boat with five people inside, capsized offshore of Clearlake Oaks. Walton was found and taken to an out of county hospital where she died and her fiancé's body was found Sunday. Apparently the boat belonged to Medley who took Walton and family members fishing. After the boat overturned, the three other passengers made it to the shore within a few minutes.

Two states, including Calif. have the lowest levels of community transmission of coronavirus. The news from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention based on the latest data from states over the last week. Low transmission is considered when there are less than 10 positive cases per 100,000 residents and positive test results are less than 5%. California and Vermont meet the criteria. Calif came in at 9.1 cases/100,000. Other states, 34.5 in Florida, 30.6 in Pennsylvania, 26.8 in Texas, and almost 23/100,000 in New York state. Calif. at the height of the surge this winter was over 40,000 new cases/ day. There are now about 900 new cases/day in comparison.

Text messages released between several officers in the Eureka Police Dept. have leaked showing a culture of discrimination. An outside investigation into the Northern Calif. police dept, not yet completed, suspends a supervisor indefinitely after the homeless were likened to pigeons and they joked they'd use helicopter blades to decapitate them. The chief has sidelined a top ranking officer, who's on paid administrative leave, but he didn't say why. This officer oversaw day-to-day field operations though. Two other officers are on paid leave after the degrading text messages were released having to do with women, those with mental illness and others who were homeless.

Rumor has it the Mendocino Marijuana Enforcement Team was serving a search warrant in Round Valley. The Sheriff's Dept. would only call it an active investigation. Mendo Fever reports a resident from Covelo reported seeing six undercover trucks and tribal officers were at a property near the Round Valley Transfer station on Refuse Road. And they say they saw cops "cutting the weed plants and tearing down the greenhouses."

A semi-truck flipped on Highway 162, dumping a bunch of dirt on the road. The CHP office in Garberville confirmed the westbound side had to be shut down for a time and they were conducting a traffic operation, only allowing one way controlled traffic through. The trailer was reported to be upside-down in the roadway.

Mendocino Board member John Hashak reporting on the new cannabis ordinance the supervisors voted 4-1 to approve. He was the one no vote. Hashak puts out a weekly letter, this one was devoted to the new ordinance which allows cultivation on 10% of rangeland and agriculture land. Staff was directed to bring language back this summer that will instead limit this to 2 acres. He says it includes no water hauling, restrictions on hoop houses and prohibits generators as a primary power source. He said he voted no because the county has to show first it can handle the current permitting process, enforce the current rules and have enough cops to respond to the illegal grows in the county. He also mentioned he and Supervisor McGourty's ad hoc committee for drought response having a zoom meeting Thursday where they'll discuss forming a county water agency, voluntary water reductions, and other efforts to deal with the historic drought.

06/09/21

The state Department of Public Health is reaching out to residents to be careful of possible fraud or scams by folks looking to take advantage of the state vaccine lottery or other incentive programs. The Vax for the Win program had its first cash drawing of June 4th. \$116.5 million was used to get people to get their shots before the state fully reopens next week. But after the drawing, scammers calling to say they were state officials blanketed the state. There were also emails, texts and social media messages. Just so you know, if you get a vaccine, you're automatically entered, privacy is protected, winners are notified through an official state address or caller or text ID or in person. You don't need to pay a fee to win and you don't need to give out personal or banking info.

An environmental report for a large marijuana cultivation operation had issues, so an appeal to the Lake County Planning Commission's decision for a major use permit was granted. The appeal for We Grow whose owner was looking to put in greenhouses, growing fields and drying rooms will be filed again. The Board of Supervisors granted the appeal without prejudice. The owner has 309 acres of property in Middletown, of which she would use just 9 acres for the operation. She applied with the Planning Commission for a Major Use Permit and got it, but neighbors appealed it. So she appealed too. The Board voted unanimously to allow the appeal.

Budget hearings are being held in Lake County. The Board of Supervisors is meeting today on the recommended 2021-22 fiscal year budget of nearly \$307,000,000, down over 15 million from last year. The County Administrative Officer says it's down because of reductions in capital project money, but the county should be getting 12 million dollars from the last federal stimulus package related to the pandemic.

The state is reportedly considering continuing the lunch program year round for those who are financially strapped. The legislature is reportedly considering a plan for a massive Universal Schools Meal Program. The 650 million dollar program would mean free breakfast and lunch all year. Lawmakers are negotiating the budget with the Gov. this week. Legislative budget leaders looking to pay for the program with federal aid money and taxpayer funds. If approved, it would start in the 2022-23 school year.

A fully vaccinated woman from Napa has died from contracting COVID-19. The county's public health officer says vaccines do provide "exceptional protection" and it doesn't diminish the importance of getting inoculated, but she is also reminding that no vaccine is 100% effective. The woman was in the hospital for a while and had other health conditions. She was over 65 years old. The latest data on more than 17 million fully vaccinated shows 5,305 breakthrough cases, that's .03%. At least 373 people did end up in the hospital and of those, 40 died. The state has not said what the primary cause of the deaths and hospitalizations were, or if it was even from COVID.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer has reported to the Board of Supervisors on the latest surge of COVID cases. Dr. Coren is encouraging everyone to continue to wear masks while out in the public while near others who may not be vaccinated. Dr. Coren says the county's experiencing a surge with 5-7 cases/100,000 residents. He says they're mostly in Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Willits. He also told the supervisors that hospitalizations were "increasing at an alarming rate" and says that suggests there will be more cases. So far 50 people have died from contracting the virus in the county, the most recent was last Friday, a woman in her 80's who spent 3 weeks in the ICU. He says the surge can be tracked to people not vaccinated. 64.5% of the population of those over 12 are partially vaccinated and nearly 55% are fully vaccinated.

Mendocino Public Health doing their part to get more people vaccinated with a promotional campaign. The music video will be in various languages, one in Spanish and ten others in English and many other languages thru a partnership with the public health office and the Mendocino DEI COVID-19 Equity Work Group. The goal is to get the word out to underserved communities through elevating voices of leaders in their communities. A local artist is singing in the video and is produced by members of the workgroup and sponsored by the public health dept. The idea by the Mendocino Diversity Equity Inclusion Taskforce, an independent task force trying to stamp out racism in all its forms in the county.

A Navy sailor from Arkansas killed in World War II is being buried locally. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Earl Maurice Ellis of Hope, Arkansas was aboard the USS Oklahoma Dec. 7th, 1941, when it was attacked in Pearl Harbor. Ellis, a radioman 3rd class, was finally accounted for last December. He hails from Louisiana but will be buried in Eureka at Ocean View Cemetery where his twin sister is buried. He was aboard the ship during a torpedo attack that capsized the vessel, killing 429 crewmen including Ellis. The deaths on the USS Oklahoma are said to be the 2nd largest loss of life that happened during the Pearl Harbor attack. His body was found after but couldn't be identified and was buried along with others at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, but he and others were exhumed because of advances in forensic techniques, then identified.

California in the money with more than expected tax revenue during the pandemic and now more from Cannabis taxes. The Department of Tax and Fee Administration has new numbers for the 1st Quarter of 2021, reporting the cannabis excise tax generated almost \$132 million and the cultivation tax brought in another \$30.7 million. Could have been more too because, due to the pandemic, the largest taxpayers continued paying, but others were given a three month extension to file 1st quarter, 2021 taxes with the Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration. Those are due in August and 2nd quarter tax revenue should be available by mid-August.

06/10/21

Soon to expire Johnson and Johnson vaccines are hanging in the balance as vaccination rates wane across the country. The FDA has reportedly told Calif. officials to store expired doses until they find out if the vaccines are going to continue to be safe to be used. The FDA also says, the vaccination expiration, which is later this month, may be able to be extended. Nearly 21 and a half million Johnson and Johnson doses have been sent to the states by the federal government, and about half have been administered. In comparison, almost 200 million Pfizer doses and 150 million Moderna doses have been shipped to states.

A graduation for the books as both Noyo High and the Coastal Adult School call it a year. The graduates from both were on the Piver baseball field last night getting their diplomas. The theme was "Resilience". Apropos for the year the students had, distance, then finally back to, face to face learning at the end of the year. Otherwise it was mostly a regular commencement, music, speeches and the handing out the diplomas.

Changes by Cal OSHA again when it comes to mask wearing at work. The workplace regulators changed course for the second time in a week to forego masks for the fully vaccinated. But the state is pretty much getting rid of masks in many public spaces starting Tuesday and Cal OSHA was called out for not towing the line. Or following guidance recently released from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So Cal OSHA will consider the rules again at their meeting next week, 2 days after the state's expected to fully reopen, doing away with masks in most public settings.

A man trapped inside a giant fan at a vineyard in Sonoma County has been freed. The Sheriff's Office reports a deputy went out to a call about a suspicious vehicle parked near the winery and found the trapped man on Tuesday. The deputy reportedly spotted a hat on a piece of equipment and saw the man's leg, he was stuck inside the shaft of a vineyard fan. Apparently, he told the deputy he was fond of taking pictures of old farm equipment, but in actuality, the deputy said he was high on meth. He's expected to be fine after some treatment and is being charged by the Sheriff's office with trespassing and drug possession.

A chaotic town hall for Congressman Jared Huffman. The congressman in Marin, part of his large district, was confronted, by what he characterized as an "angry COVID-denying mob" that turned the event "into a MAGA circus." He posted on Facebook that besides the riots on January 6th at the US Capitol, it might have been the "ugliest, most disgraceful spectacle" he's ever seen. The mob forced its way in according to local media and chanted "medical freedom now!" One guy stayed on the stage with Huffman as he pleaded with them not to get physical. He says they were rude, aggressive and tried not to allow them to proceed with the townhall, which he ignored.

The Calif. Health Secretary has released a bit more info on the reopening of the state next Tuesday. Dr. Mark Ghaly says fully vaccinated residents can go without masks in most public places June 15th and beyond. Except in public transportation, most public schools, healthcare offices and homeless, emergency and cooling centers. It basically just follows what the CDC said would be okay, and confused many, wearing masks is pretty much up to individual businesses, for those fully vaccinated. Cal OSHA's presenting the new guidance to its standards board for consideration.

Things looking pretty good related to Covid in Lake County. The acting Public Health Officer, Dr. Evan Bloom updating the Board of Supervisors Tuesday with the county epidemiologist. They say the case rate is low, at 3.3/100,000 and the testing positivity rate is at 2.5 percent. Dr. Bloom says there are some slight increases elsewhere in Northern Calif. and some hints it could happen there, but, he says, it remains to be seen. Lake is in the Orange Tier, ahead of the reopening of the state next week. The case rate has remained fairly stable in Lake County with testing down slightly. They are touting a 53% vaccination rate in those 12 and older, partial or fully. 66% of Californians are now fully vaccinated.

The jobless rate is unchanged in Calif, down slightly in Lake and by much more in Mendocino County. In Lake, the unemployment rate for April was 7.6%, down a bit, from 7.9% in March. Mendocino County was at 7.1% in March, and is now showing 6.5%. Calif. jobless numbers came in at 8.3% for the second month in a row. But one year ago, it was 16 percent. The unemployment rate in the U.S. for April was just 6.1 percent, up slightly from March when it was 6% and less than half what it was during the height of the COVID pandemic, 14.8 percent in April 2020. Some other nearby county numbers were, Glenn at 6.9 percent, Napa, 6.3 percent, Sonoma at just 5.7 percent and Yolo at 6 percent. Marin was the lowest in the state at 4.6 percent, and once again, Imperial county was the highest, with 16.1 percent.

It was unanimous. At budget hearings a couple of days ago, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors all gave the green light to form a standalone water agency again due to water insecurity in the county. The work would include immediately turning attention to the drought emergency. The last decade or so the water agency was folded into the Dept. of Transportation, but before that it was solo. The Daily Journal reports at the meeting Tuesday Supervisor Glenn McGourty, part of the drought emergency committee, said water infrastructure here has been neglected. And says there needs to be a better way to store and deliver water. He says a stand-alone agency wouldn't be fully operational for about a year, but the Board agreed to hire a project manager immediately to oversee the drought response and respond to the drought emergency. Then water resource specialists and hydrologists could be hired later.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has given commendation to a local for public service. On their Facebook page the Sheriff's office posted a picture of Donald Woskow getting a special plaque yesterday. The post said it in appreciation of "more than two decades of public service in Mendocino County". He was an officer for 12 years at the Ukiah Police Department and spent another 12 years with the Sheriff's Office. He also taught law enforcement community relations at Ukiah High School for several years.

Talks are over for the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians and the Town of Windsor who were trying to get treatment for the tribe's wastewater. So the tribe is reportedly going to build their own treatment plant on their land, which is pretty close to the Deer Creek residential neighborhood. There had been a deal in place between the two parties and it was even ratified unanimously by the Town Council last year. That would have had the tribe paying \$20 million which was supposed to then be turned around for use to construct a new public recreation center with a pool. The Town Manager says they're surprised and disappointed that good faith negotiations ended. A tribal spokesperson says they're moving forward on their own. The tribe's been planning a resort and construction of 300 homes, restaurants and a winery.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors budget meeting featured a back and forth with the DA and Sheriff on a spike of violent felonies. The DA told the board yesterday, there were 10% more violent crimes from 2019-2020. Then they discussed the illegal cannabis industry and a double murder at a cultivation site in Willits. The other major crime was three out of area men with military grade weapons pretending to be cops and stealing money from people intending to buy marijuana. The Sheriff also reminded about firefighters being harassed during last year's August Complex wildfire related to marijuana crimes too. The DA told the board they might want to get some lobbyists in Sacramento to help get stiffer penalties for water theft

06/11/21

A mini surge of coronavirus continues in Mendocino County. Now the Public Health Office reports a case each at Applebees in Ukiah and Diggers Bar in Willits. It comes days after a couple of other cases at 2 restaurants among staff. The latest cases in staff too. So the public and restaurant staff are warned if they're not fully vaccinated and were at Applebee's between June 4-7, or Diggers between June 3-5, to go get a COVID19 test which is free and available Sunday to next Thursday at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren is reminding also of the importance of staying home from work if you have symptoms like fever, cough, and shortness of breath. He also says he hopes companies are encouraging their employees get vaccinated to slow the spread and protect the community.

Cal Fire in Mendocino County is doing a prescribed burn at Howard Forest, so you may see some smoke plumes in the air. It's on 5 acres of state owned property in Willits on the 101. The burn will be next week on Tuesday and Wednesday to help with regrowth, enhance wildlife habitat, protect watersheds and to help train fire personnel. They say the reason they do any fuel reduction project is to change the size and composition of fuels in the forest. They will watch the burn under tight restrictions and if they can't do it safely, they will cancel the burn altogether.

Millions coming to Lake County thanks to the latest stimulus package related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act had \$1.9 trillion in it and of that, Lake got over \$12,500,000. Congressman Mike Thompson was in Lakeport presenting ceremonial checks to city and county officials. Lake Co News on hand at the presentation reports Lakeport is getting \$1.2 million. And Clearlake is getting well over 3 times that amount.

Another death reported in Clear Lake from last weekend. The Sheriff's Office reports 60-year-old Efrain Antonio Menjivar of Martinez disappeared Saturday after he went swimming. His body wasn't found until this past Wednesday morning in Clearlake Oaks. They've scheduled an autopsy for today. It's the third death from last weekend, all of them offshore at Clearlake Oaks. We told you about the couple who died, the man Webster Medley III took his fiancé and 3 others out on his boat. He jumped in after his fiancé went in when their boat capsized. The two died, but 3 others on the boat made it to shore.

Tree sitters, as they're called, sitting inside trees in Jackson Demonstration State Forest against logging. Mendo Voice reports trees are being taken down by contractors working with Cal Fire, which owns the forest. The activists from Mendocino Trail Stewards and EarthFirst are asking for a two year hold on logging in the forest. They were protesting in April too, tree sitters parked it inside 2 more than 150 year old redwoods. Some have been trying to block the entrance to the forest so loggers can't get in, but apparently they got in anyway. Cal Fire has been warning folks to stay out of the area.

A fire that had been burning outside Covelo has been stopped from advancing. The fire started yesterday afternoon and was reportedly burning through brush east of Covelo, near the Eel River Campground. Cal Fire was on the scene but it was rugged terrain, so they had several aircraft out. The fire was under an acre yesterday afternoon with no structures threatened.

After a judge overturned California's ban on assault weapons, the state's taking action, appealing it to the Ninth Circuit. The governor and the mayor of San Francisco were with the Attorney General Rob Bonta when he announced the appeal yesterday. He brought up the mass shooting in San Jose last month as an example of his why. He said the overturning of the longstanding ban was disturbing and troubling. The judge in the overturning of the ban, issued a permanent injunction, but stayed the ruling for 30 days so there was time to appeal. The gov. said the judge was a "wholly owned subsidiary of the gun lobby" and needed to be called out.

A lawsuit is threatened against the US Fish and Wildlife Service because of a denial to protect the tiny animal, the Fisher. The Environmental Protection Information Center, known as EPIC, says they're giving 60 days notice of their intention to file a lawsuit, which is required under the Endangered Species Act to challenge a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That gives the Service time to correct the violations of the law. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center are also part of the intended lawsuit to protect the Fisher, a carnivorous mammal in the same family as weasels, minks, martens and otters. Protections for the animal have been withdrawn over the years. They were listed as threatened in 2019.

There could be a buyer for the old Palace Hotel. The Daily Journal reports the receiver of the hotel, Mark Adams filed a report in Mendocino County Superior Court Wednesday saying there's a new "potential buyer". The report does not say who the interested party is, only that they "emerged" in recent weeks, and they've not spoken directly. He refers to the interested person as she, calling her "credible and sophisticated enough to take on this assignment". So he says he'll investigate further the potential receiver's sale of the hotel with a long contingency-laden escrow period. The latest buyer took over in January of 2019, but apparently hasn't done much. Adams was appointed to take control of the building after it was declared a public nuisance. It went on the market and sold at auction and has continued to sit.

[After wildfires damaged parts of the Mendocino National Forest, campgrounds were closed along](#)

On Tuesday the state is poised to reopen again, like before times, but also, not so normal. There will still be many restrictions, but the long-held color-coded Blueprint is done then. The Governor made the announcement in April and said it again last month, things can start to get back to business as usual. Even though there will be guidelines to follow from the state, and the CDC, counties can still decide to be stricter if they want, not looser. You'll be able to remove your mask if you're vaccinated in most public spaces, following the recommendations of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It'll be up to individual businesses and companies about what you can do inside or while at work as far as masking and keeping your distance from others.

As people get vaccinated and the COVID19 case numbers are mostly down, Frontier Days is back in Willits. It'll be the 95th year it's hosted. This time it starts next Friday, June 18th and will go through July 4th. A little different, but expected, there will be sanitation stations and other pandemic safety precautions in place. The Hometown Celebration will take over Main Street Friday evening and the Rodeo Sweetheart contest will happen again, as will the fantastic Carnival, Dancing and Truck Pulls. Of course the big rodeo will happen too in the Jack Tharp Arena

06/14/20

Only 8 acres have burned, but Cal Fire says they've got the Mustang Fire in Lake County 75 percent contained. It was quick work too, Cal Fire reported the containment lines about five hours after the fire was first reported. They were working thru the night on the fire, to put out hot spots and mop up. There was no evacuations, injuries or property damage reported late last night. The fire was burning in Middletown north of Santa Rosa. They were reporting the fire might get to 10 acres and was located in the "#ValleyFire burn scar from 2015.

A service dog from Hopland has been reported missing. Arlo, or Loo, is the service dog for 26 year old Isabella Gentry who needs help due to having seizures. The dog went missing last October after being let out of a fenced yard. Gentry says she can't go most places now without the dog she found on Craigslist when he was a 4 months old. A woman from Ukiah's been helping Gentry try to find the dog who was lost in rural Mendocino County.

The Governor has announced he feels confident Cal OSHA will also drop almost all mask wearing and social distancing mandates when the state fully reopens. The state is set for that tomorrow though, and Cal OSHA is supposed to meet Thursday. Gov. Newsom says he expects a favorable outcome when they convene. He says there will no doubt be worksite regulations, but since he's unsure when the new rules will take shape, he didn't say if the state will wait to lift some safety protocols. That could mean that the current rules, for masking and distancing, stay in place, for now in workplaces. The Governor says he thinks Cal OSHA will stay aligned with what the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines are. He says he'll get involved if needed to "clarify any ambiguities."

A building in Garberville caught fire over the weekend. Redway Fire and Garberville Volunteer Fire and Cal Fire all reported to the apartment complex behind a Catholic Church. They say there was heavy fire when they got there so they called for more help. The building was seriously damaged and many residents lost their homes. 3 apartments were gutted, 2 were damaged, but they could not be lived in at the moment. Also, the church, Our Lady of the Redwoods had damage in the back of the building. Apparently the fire started in one of the apartments, then spread. PG&E shut the power off to the building and a fire investigator was called. Red Cross was also there to help the displaced residents.

Another pot bust, this time in Potter Valley. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports its Marijuana Enforcement Team was investigating the grow where they had previously served a search warrant for growing illegally. Several thousand plants were eradicated from the spot last August. Deputies found hoop houses there this time and served a search warrant along with the Major Crimes Task Force June 2nd. They say when they arrived with the search warrant, four Hispanic males ran and have not been found. Three Hispanic females were found in a trimming room, one of them was only 16. Deputies found, eradicated and ultimately destroyed over 3,740 cannabis plants and another 115 pounds of hanging bud. The DA's office is looking at the case for possible prosecution.

After a traffic stop in Covelo, deputies found a man driving who had 2 felony arrest warrants. So they searched his car and found meth and 9mm caliber ammunition. Since the man was a convicted felon, he's not allowed to have a gun or ammo. Kenneth Hanover was arrested for two felony arrest warrants, possessing ammunition and possession of a controlled substance and held on \$30,000.00 bail in Mendocino County Jail.

A solo car crash near Fort Bragg has ended with one death and 3 injuries. Mendo Fever reports the CHP reported to the incident on Highway 20 around mile marker 3., finding four people in the car along with two kids. An 11-year-old was reportedly having seizures and another child said they had stomach pains. Deputies and the coroner were on the scene. The scanner said one person was airlifted to another county for treatment. No other info was immediately available.

The Governor's making it official, lifting his executive orders for the pandemic. So there's no more Blueprint for a Safer Economy, his new order is called, Beyond the Blueprint and begins tomorrow, officially ending the state's Stay-Home Order. So physical distancing, capacity limits and the county tier end. Many of the executive actions Newsom took in March of 2020 to respond to the pandemic will be no longer, and other provisions continue, like allowing pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations against COVID19. The Governor announced almost 40 million vaccines have been administered. He says many restrictions will be lifted and they'll monitor virus activity on a day-to-day basis while remaining vigilant to protect public health and safety as the pandemic persists.

A decent sized earthquake hit the Cobb area. Late Saturday night the U.S. Geological Survey confirmed a 4.1 inside the Sonoma County line near Big Sulphur Creek. It was centered 5.8 miles west of Cobb and 13.8 miles north of Healdsburg. They had shake reports from Lake, Napa and Sonoma counties.

Since the state is fully reopening tomorrow, Lake County Superior Court is updating its operational protocols. Lake Co News reports there will still be a limited number of cases on the court calendar, that they will continue to encourage physical distancing in court facilities, they'll monitor and apply state, local public health and Cal/OSHA guidance on face coverings as appropriate and continue to do some work remotely when needed. Revised guidance was released last week ahead of the Beyond the Blueprint guidance that starts tomorrow: face coverings for indoor events where there may be unvaccinated persons. Remote appearances will continue for those who already had them set up, and many events around trials will continue at the fairgrounds.

New COVID protocols up for discussion by the Lake County Board of Supervisors. The board will also take some time to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month. The meeting tomorrow morning will cover mask requirements and social distancing as the state reopens and new guidance came out in the last several weeks from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer reporting on the local COVID19 surge. Dr. Andy Coren reported Friday hospitalizations were up and even though the number of infections were down elsewhere in the state, and worldwide, we are seeing a surge like we did last winter. Dr. Coren says the cases are in those who've not been vaccinated. 7 people were in the hospital as of Friday, two in an ICU. There are no outbreaks, but there is community spread. Some cases were reported in 4 restaurants or bars and in a private school. The Pub and The Office, and at Applebee's and Diggers Bar and Ukiah Junior Academy. He said for the most part people are being cooperative, but some have refused to speak with contact tracers. He said even if the state reopens, stricter protocols could remain in Mendocino County.

A man in court for DUI and went to trial had a hung jury in his case. The Mendocino County District Attorney reported the Superior Court jury came back from deliberating on Friday. The foreperson announced that the jurors couldn't agree on verdicts against Michael Pimental of Sacramento. He was charged with driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and driving a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol .08 or greater, both counts charged as misdemeanors. The judge declared a mistrial, so the charges stand and there was a continuation in the case until June 25th. There could be a retrial set at that time.

06/15/20

The Mendocino County Health Officer has issued new Emergency Isolation and Quarantine Orders. The order is only for people who've tested positive or may have the virus, as a reminder. But starting yesterday, there were updated isolation/quarantine orders from the public health office. It goes like this, anyone who's been confirmed to be positive for coronavirus, or likely has contracted the virus has to self-isolate and follow all instructions in the Emergency Isolation Order. You are therefore required to communicate, cooperate and respond to calls from County Public Health Case Investigation/Contact Tracing to prevent the spread. You have to isolate at least ten days away from others. And tell all of your close contacts about their possible exposure. Anyone fully vaccinated who was in contact with the infected person is not required to quarantine if they have no symptoms.

The owners of a restaurant where a staff member tested positive for COVID19 last month says they were not told by the public health office until contact tracing was already underway. Mendo Fever reports the owners of the Office Bar & Bistro sent out a letter to clarify the chain of events. They say they understand public health putting out a press release due to public safety concerns, but their protocol was not followed and the county has even apologized for the mis-communication. The owners say their "deepest concern... is staff and customers be kept safe, healthy, and continue to trust them". They go on to say, "Stay safe. Stay diligent. We're so close. Get vaccinated."

A one car crash has ended with that car into a tree. The CHP in Ukiah on the scene Sunday morning on Highway 20 and say someone in a 2009 Honda Accord encountered a car in the other direction with the high beams on causing them to make an unsafe turn, so they crossed the highway and went off the road, onto the shoulder and hit the tree. Someone in their car died. The CHP reports they had their seatbelt on improperly. Another passenger complained of pain, and apparently had internal injuries, including a lacerated spleen and liver. 3 people ended up in the hospital. The CHP reports alcohol and/or drugs were not a factor in the crash.

Lake County's still doing well keeping coronavirus at bay. The county reports as Calif. moves beyond the Blueprint, most businesses can lift most safety restrictions. There will however still be some high risk settings that require masks and distancing, like so-called "mega-events" of 5,000 people indoors, or 10,000 outdoors. The acting Public Health Officer, Dr. Evan Bloom says the case rate is a lot lower than the winter months, but nearly half of Lake County residents have not even received one dose of vaccine. He says the county is "well short of the 70% vaccination rate needed for herd immunity". He says getting vaccinated and continuing to take common sense precautions are essential. He says the county has no intention of layering on new restrictions beyond what the state is ordering, starting today. So those fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask, in most indoor settings, but others have to.

Here we go again, another restaurant reporting a COVID19 case in Ukiah. Ellie's Mutt Hut has one confirmed positive case in staff, so the public health office is asking anyone who may have gone to the restaurant last Thursday or Friday to get tested and closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. The staffer also went to a Potter Valley grad party Friday so they're asking anyone else at that party, who's not been vaccinated to also get a COVID test. Those who are fully vaccinated and develop symptoms should still get tested. The Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren is urging folks who think they have COVID or test positive to please stay home. Environmental Health is checking out the restaurant and says they've been very cooperative. He also urged them and is urging other restaurants and businesses to encourage employees to get vaccinated to stomp out the virus.

Stream flows in the lower Russian River are being cut by over half their regular amount to conserve water normally stored in Lake Sonoma. The Sonoma County water agency got the green light to cut flows. The Press Democrat reports instream flows in the upper river, above Dry Creek, fed by releases from Lake Sonoma, are already at a very low threshold so as much water as possible can be stored in Lake Mendocino, the smaller of the two reservoirs. So this means the county water agency and contractors have to use 20% less water from the river too. The two reservoirs are the lowest they've ever been this time of year, and the hottest, driest months have not even occurred.

The economy is fully reopening today and with that, some of the stay home safety protocols go out the window... but not so fast, if you haven't been vaccinated. The state is pulling back some of the stricter guidelines and cancelling emergency orders while continuing to try to get people who are skeptical or reluctant to get a vaccination. Most restrictions on businesses still in place are being relaxed like mask wearing and social distancing for those who are vaccinated. The governor is rescinding several emergency actions put into place last year, that could take several months. The Gov. spoke on the reopening Friday thanking the 40 million Californians for getting vaccinated. There were 58 executive orders since March of 2020 related to the state of emergency because of the pandemic. It includes remote local government work, tax payment extensions and online learning. Plus utility and rent breaks and extended unemployment payments. Most orders will be rescinded by the Governor by June 30th, others, Sept. 30th.

A shooting in Windsor ends with two teens shot and a 3rd, who was the suspect, running from the scene. The trio, all 15 years old. Two ended up in the hospital, one of them had a shot to their arm, the other to their stomach. It happened Friday night at Michael Hall Park. Witnesses say they heard gunshots and multiple people running. The two victims injuries were reported not to be life threatening. And the alleged shooter was eventually arrested.

The California Public Utilities Commission says PG&E will have to work with an independent safety monitor. A proposal has been drawn up by the commission and will be voted on today. It's all part of PG&E's exit from bankruptcy last year. The commission decided an independent safety monitor should follow up after a federal monitor was appointed as part of PG&E's probation in criminal court. The federal monitor will be done next year, and an independent safety monitor, would be more local. The commission looking to add another layer of oversight on the utility giant to make sure they focus on long-term safety and reliability.

A bump in water charges has passed the Brooktrails Township Community Service District (BTCSD) Board of Directors. Starting next month, it's just about \$1-3 more/month. Apparently the cost of treating water has gone up and is something that goes up every year. At their latest board meeting, they also discussed the drought and water shortages across the state, but they say Lake Ada Rose is full at the moment. But that it had gone down 5 inches since the last meeting. They say they'll monitor and record other changes and enact a water shortage emergency if needed.

The next budget in Lakeport is nearly a done deal. The City Council will consider the city's 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget at their next meeting. It includes over \$662,000 from last fiscal year to complete projects, already started. The Record Bee reports the city's been able to keep the budget balanced even in the midst of the pandemic. They're now focused on keeping a larger reserve that has flexibility and security. The council is also looking to enter a Professional Services Agreement with an engineering firm for a Neighborhood Improvement Project. They're also looking over amendments to the General Plan which will allow them to try for FEMA grants and other types of FEMA emergency funding.

Rep. Mike Thompson has announced a tax credit for small businesses to help pay for sick and family leave has been extended through September. The tax credit is part of President Biden's COVID stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan. Thompson says it allows workers to care for sick family members, take time off if they get coronavirus and use paid leave to get a vaccination. It also helps small businesses impacted economically by the pandemic. The advanceable, refundable tax credit allows businesses with less than 500 employees to get up to \$17,110 per employee to give them up to 10 days of paid sick leave and up to 12 weeks of paid family leave through September 30th.

06/16/21

It's gonna be hot. The first massive heat push is coming. Temperatures should be in the 105-110 degree range, but PG&E says they have no public safety power shutoffs planned. The utility company's own meteorologists say there's some heat developing over the Southwest desert which means temps over the century mark in some places. In Lake County and Mendocino County various cities not far apart, with highs tomorrow from the mid-nineties up into the 104-108 range. PG&E says they have other plans for possible outages, and they'll be monitoring and are prepared. The California Independent Operator, which runs the state's grid has also issued a heat bulletin but said they didn't foresee any outages or power disruptions currently, but that was last Friday.

Police from Ukiah arrest a woman they say tried to kidnap an infant. They say they got a call Monday from a woman who says she parked her car in front of North Coast Opportunities and jumped out, leaving her one year old strapped in the back seat. She knocked on the front door of the business, asking for help, when suspect Christina Rojas hopped into the driver's seat and took off. The victim asked North Coast Opportunities staff to call police who say got a call that a woman had tried to leave the baby with them, they said no and called police. The car was found under a half hour later and the baby was still inside. Rojas was arrested for car theft, kidnaping, and child endangerment and booked into jail. Possible charges against mom could be coming too, for child endangerment.

OptumServe in Lakeport is closing its testing and vaccination site. Apparently, there is building maintenance needed where they were housed, so the closure is effective already. Anyone with an appointment yesterday was still going to be allowed, but others with vaccination appointments for a second dose this week are told to go tomorrow instead to the Lakeport Elementary School Cafeteria from 12-4pm. Anyone with appointments next weekend, the 25th out until July 12th is also supposed to go to Lakeport Elementary. There were no other appointments set. If you cannot get to your new appointment time and place, you're told to go schedule a new appointment, and if you still have issues, to call the public health office in Lake County.

Since the state has reopened, Mendocino County Elected Officials and Department Heads are still keeping some offices closed to the public to slow the spread of the virus. Cal/OSHA regulates the safety requirements for Mendocino County and as of yet has not changed anything. They meet tomorrow and further guidance on mask wearing and social distancing is expected. So some departments still have limited in person access or by appointment only. It's suggested you call ahead to see if you can come in person, or by appointment, if you need a mask, or if you can do your business by email or telephone.

Another restaurant who says they had a coronavirus case in a staff member, says they were “blind-sided” by the public announcement. On Monday, the Mendocino County Public Health Office sent out notice to local press that Ellie’s Mutt Hutt had a positive test in a staffer and warned the public if they’d been there a couple days last week to get tested. One of the owners says even though public health said they were fully cooperating, they had not been contacted before the press release went out. They say business was just beginning to pick up again when they lost a bunch of business all over again. Owners of the restaurant The Office say the same thing happened to them. For his part, the Public Health Officer, Dr. Andy Coren says the announcements are not meant to be punitive, just a tool to slow the spread of the virus.

Students and staff members of any University of California campus are going to have to be vaccinated to work or attend classes this fall. The UC President Michael Drake says the vaccine mandate is something they’re planning for fall classes, which is a change in what they had said a couple months ago. One of the UC Regents told the San Francisco Chronicle they’ll be briefed on the plan when they meet next month. There are more than a half million people, students, faculty and other staff expected to return this fall, to mostly in person class at 10 campuses. There will be exemptions for medical or religious reasons. A tad different for California State University, officials there say they’re waiting on full FDA approval before mandating COVID vaccinations.

State lawmakers looking to infuse the legal marijuana industry with some cash as it struggles to compete with the black market. The Legislature is considering a \$100 million dollar package to distribute amongst cities and counties to help prop up cannabis businesses. Apparently they have not gone from provisional, temporary licenses to permanent ones because of the cost and red tape to get there. So most of the state’s marijuana businesses have the temporary licenses still. The Governor was reportedly looking to give the businesses a six month extension, but several environmental groups say that goes against what voters were promised when weed was legalized. Industry officials agree and say throwing money at the problem doesn’t really do that much to help.

There’s a new executive director for the Mendocino Film Festival. The Board of Directors has hired Phoenix Trent, a past volunteer coordinator for the festival to take over. He lives in Little River and apparently has loads of experience in nonprofits and public interest advocacy. He was also the vice president of the Arts Council of Mendocino County and former director of Development at the Mendocino Woodlands.

A man from Clearlake accused of hitting and killing a pedestrian then leaving the scene is going to prison. Thomas Magee appeared on video for his sentencing for the September 2019 incident. He was charged with vehicular manslaughter, murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, attempted murder and hit and run. The two victims also appeared and provided victim impact statements. The court also found Magee had a history of drug use, and found him guilty of most charges. So he received 11 years for Voluntary Manslaughter, one year of Assault with a Deadly Weapon, another year for hit and run with Permanent Injury or Death, for a total of 13 years. He also has to find a way to pay restitution to the victims of nearly \$6,400 plus 10% interest per year to the Victim's Compensation and Government Claim Board. Another victim Joseph Symond Jackson of Lucerne died from injuries after he was hit by Magee.

California community colleges are reportedly losing students to for profit colleges. A new report says television advertising is luring students from once affordable and local, community colleges. Federal data shows too that Black people, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders are more likely now to pick for profits first, or transfer later. But the report also says it takes many people six years to graduate and that almost 9 out of 10 Black and Native American enrollees won't get their degree at the for-profit colleges in that time frame. So the Community College Chancellors' Office says they're doing a bunch of PSA's to try to reach out to those communities. For-profit schools fared better than public colleges in enrolling and retaining students during the pandemic, but community colleges lost 12% of their enrollment. For-profits lost only 1.5%.

The Highlands Senior Center in Lake County is staying closed because of the still present pandemic. The Lake County Public Health office apparently consulting with the center located in Clearlake, and because of coronavirus and different variants in the community, and the vulnerability of seniors, they've opted to stay closed for an undetermined time period. They're still offering Grab and Go lunches by donation. They say if you know a senior who may need some help, to give them a call.

A river cleanup is planned in Willits. Community members are invited to attend the river and stream cleanup Friday and Saturday. They ask you to meet them in the big gravel parking lot on the northwest corner of Main and Commercial streets at 10 a.m. They're planning to hit up several sites and built up debris and trash in the salmon spawning grounds. You will need to bring your own supplies, but they will have some on a limited basis. The event is sponsored by Baby Shark and the Leopold Art Gallery of Willits

06/17/21

A bunch of illegal cannabis grows descended on by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. The office reports going out from June 4th to the 9th in Covelo and Albion. One of the Covelo properties came in to deputies as a tip where they found nearly 4,200 plants and 76 pounds of processed weed. Then another Covelo property turned up almost 3,100 plants and 36.5 pounds of processed bud, the third brought over 2,330 plants and a fourth where 4 men were seen in hoop houses, take off when they saw police presence. Deputies eradicated over 5,130 plants on clear cut tribal land, a bunch of guns, 2,200 pounds of drying bud, 600 pounds of processed weed and assault rifle ghost guns, a rifle and one semi-automatic handgun. Finally in Albion, they found 12,615 growing marijuana plants, a rifle and \$5,000.00 in money orders. No word on any arrests.

A man in Lake County has been arrested after a mom reported her 15 year old daughter had been sexually assaulted. The victim told a deputy in February she met a man on a social media site who said he was 21 years old. They had sex a bunch she says, and he gave her drugs for the sex. The deputy told the girl to contact the man on the app to meet her in Middletown. The deputy went up to the guy who gave a fake name and denied knowing the girl. But the victim positively id'd the man who admitted he did know the girl, but thought she was 18. 31 year old Trevor Reynoso of Murrieta was wanted in Texas for possession of child porn and arrested and booked on the Texas warrant in Lake County. He faces more charges here including Lewd Acts with a Child, Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with a Minor, Arranging to meet a Minor for Purposes of Sex and Soliciting Prostitution from a Minor. He's held on no bail.

A red bearded man wanted for a burglary in Elk has been spotted again, inside the same house he's suspected of burglarizing. Word went out last month that a 40 year-old white man with a red beard and brown hair with a skull or several skull tattoos and a demon face tattoo was wanted and considered armed and dangerous. On Monday while a homeowner was out, they saw William Evers in their home on a live-time footage security camera. Cops say that's the same home he's suspected of ripping off in May. Deputies from across the region and 2 SWAT teams descended on the home and he got away again.

A Flex Alert has been called for by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) due to extreme heat. The alert from 5-10 p.m. tonight. Cal ISO asking for voluntary electricity conservation because of the current heat wave, to make sure there's enough energy to meet power demands, and not to have rolling blackouts. They ask to have your air conditioning set to 78 degrees or higher, use large appliances less, and turn off unnecessary lights and other small appliances.

The Sheriff has put out a public statement regarding communications he's had with the Board of Supervisors. Sheriff Matt Kendall says there's been talks about the budget and serving the public. He warns there's a limit to how efficient the department can be, which the public "demands and deserves". So Kendall's IT department, vehicle replacements and other items he says are extremely critical to the operations of the Sheriff's Office are being reviewed. He says his office expense can be a drain because of consistent drug abuse which he calls a major factor in psychological well-being and a direct contributor to crimes including burglaries, assaults and crimes against persons. He says the county needs to pay now, or we'll all pay later. He says he's confident in his talks with all parties, that they'll be able to strike a balance.

Some people protesting at Jackson Demonstration Forest say loggers felled a tree a little too close to them. Mendo Fever reports the logging started early yesterday as part of the so-called "Caspar 500" timber harvest plan in the forest. They were taking down huge redwoods, protestors say, within about six feet of them and someone trail riding on a bike. They also say they sounded a horn to let the loggers know they were there. They even walked up to the loggers to try to plead with them to stop but they were refused by a supervisor. The news site reports it led to a tense stand off with the protestors and the bike rider talking to 3 loggers, talking them into stopping. The news site also reports some concerned community members have asked the Cal Fire State Forests Program Director to stop the logging while people are in the woods. They've responded that it's okay for folks to be in the forest at a safe distance. But they claim tree sitters were demanded they leave, and the Sheriff was called. And it looks like it will all continue.

[The state is telling thousands of water users to stop diverting water from the San Joaquin-Sacra](#)

It passed overwhelmingly and Congressman Mike Thompson signed on to designate June 19th as the Juneteenth National Independence Day, a new federal holiday. It marks the day when Union Troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce the end to the Civil War and an end to slavery, many slaves didn't find out until that day in 1865. Many states have recognized the day already, California started in 2003. Thompson put out a statement saying Juneteenth is the day the last enslaved people were freed... and two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The bill heads to President Biden's desk for signature next.

Lakeport police have received a commendation... the Gold Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement Policy Management. The Police Chief Brad Rasmussen says they partner with Lexipol for up-to-date policies on law enforcement response and actions. He went on to say we're all well aware of recent national events which created calls for police reform and changes in policing policy. He says they had already updated their policies before the events and updated their best practice policies, putting them in line with changes the public was seeking. Some of that included use of force issues.

Following the state and federal government mandates, the Mendocino County Public Health office has updated the mask requirements related to COVID19 in the county. The office says the risk remains in Calif so they would like the continued use of facial coverings to slow the spread in the most vulnerable people in the community. Masks should be worn on public transit and in transit hubs, healthcare settings, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers and indoors at public schools, childcare facilities and other youth settings. Anyone not vaccinated has to continue to wear a mask indoors at businesses at in local government offices serving the public. Fully vaccinated people do not need to wear face coverings in these settings. Individual businesses can still mandate masks if they want.

In Lake County, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated employees when the state rules are revised. Cal OSHA is meeting today to discuss the mask mandate and other safety requirements as it relates to the pandemic. And the Governor has signaled he will follow what they say and may adjust state requirements, and sign an executive order. On Tuesday the state scrapped the Blueprint for a Safer Economy and its social distancing and mask mandates for members of the public who are vaccinated, but in businesses employees are still required to wear masks. Cal/OSHA, the state's workplace regulating agency will vote today on whether to allow vaccinated workers to remove their masks. Unvaccinated workers would still have to wear masks. Supervisor Bruno Sabatier motioned to "unofficially" lift mandates Friday and "officially" next Tuesday at the board's next meeting.

The same day there was a confrontation between activists and loggers at the Jackson Demonstration Forest in Casper, the activists reportedly opted not to meet with a couple of county supervisors because they invited Cal Fire to join. Mendocino Voice reports the activists were to meet County supervisors Dan Gjerde and Ted Williams to tour the forest but just before the planned walk thru, the groups led by the Mendocino Trail Stewards decided not to go with Gjerde because he invited Cal Fire reps. It's all happening during a timber harvest plan, well under way and managed by Cal Fire. The news site says the activists said the largest trees shouldn't be logged because of the amount of carbon they take from the atmosphere. Cal Fire says they have to log, to maintain the forest and after all it is a "demonstration forest" where logging practices are demonstrated.

A man in Lakeport had his preliminary hearing and will now face trial for assault with a deadly weapon and threatening a school officer, amongst many other charges. Morgan Matthew Jack will be back in court Tuesday on several of the charges, like threatening to kill his girlfriend in Lakeport. Deputies reported to the home they lived in and Jack was arrested, but he would leave the home. They say they heard him fiddling with a gun, then he fired a rifle in their direction. They called out SWAT teams and other backup and after a couple hours he was arrested. A police K-9 from Clearlake helped take the guy down. He and a few officers had minor injuries after the incident. A pellet gun was found with him. The man had previously been charged with a murder in 2008.

06/18/21

As expected, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, or Cal/OSHA has updated workplace COVID safety rules. Fully vaccinated people don't have to wear masks and it's on employers to make sure those not wearing a mask are actually vaccinated. But they can also allow people to just say, ya I'm vaccinated. For those who are not, they must continue to wear masks or respirators indoors, and socially distance themselves away from others. Employers have to have masks available too. No masks are required of anyone outdoors unless there has been a virus outbreak. Then all workers must wear masks and social distancing must be maintained. No more barriers anymore though, again unless there's an outbreak.

Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation reports finishing a fundraiser to build a Physiology Lab classroom on the Coast. The \$72,000 was bolstered with a \$30,000 grant so next spring, students who take the Physiology course, which is mandatory for nursing, they'll be in the new classroom. The college reminds the country is facing a healthcare crisis, and with that a projected shortage of nurses, especially in rural areas. Some students have had to travel 3 hours or so for classes, but now the trip will be shorter.

Cal Fire reminds fireworks are illegal and if you are caught using them you could be fined or jailed. The Mendocino Unit of Cal Fire's chief says everyone should have a safe holiday and help prevent wildfires and injuries caused by fireworks. Anyone in possession or caught transporting or using fireworks in Mendocino County is in violation of the law and they have zero tolerance. They're working with local law enforcement and firefighters to take fireworks and prosecute those found in possession of them. You could also be held liable for firefighting costs and any property damage costs.

A car fire sparked some brush in Upper Lake. The fire quickly grew to over 40 acres yesterday afternoon near Highway 20 and the Reclamation Cutoff. Around dinner time Cal Fire tweeting that the fire had stopped forward movement and was 80% contained. And there were no reports of injuries or damaged buildings. The CHP had closed a portion of Highway 20 near Nice and Lucerne, but the highway had reopened by 7 p.m.

Another Flex Alert has been called by the Calif. Independent System Operator, Cal ISO. Last night was the first alert ahead of summer. From 5-10pm last night they were asking for reduced use of energy. And tonight, from 6-9pm, the same. The excessive heat warnings across the state had Cal ISO asking for voluntary conservation, things like setting your thermostats to 78 degrees or higher and avoid using washers, dishwashers and other major appliances. The Governor has also signed an emergency proclamation so certain permitting requirements are waived. This allows power plants to do what's necessary to meet the demand for electricity. It states there is "extreme heat peril" facing the state this week.

The California Fish and Game Commission has voted for summer steelhead to be listed as endangered in four North Coast watersheds. The proclamation for the Eel, Mad, and Mattole Rivers, and Redwood Creek as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. The move after a petition circulated by the Friends of the Eel River. The agency has also listed Klamath spring Chinook as Endangered after a petition by the Salmon River Restoration Council and the Karuk tribe.

Summer School should be packed after months of at home learning during the pandemic. Cal Matters reports over \$4.5 billion dollars was sent to schools from the state, they've seen summer enrollment numbers jump by ten times the normal amount of kids. Some schools are offering summer programming for the first time ever. The state's two largest districts, Los Angeles and San Diego are offering in-person summer learning for all students. In Los Angeles, a bunch of classes are already full and in San Diego about a quarter of all students enrolled for summer school.

A new report from City Staff in Ukiah says about half of all residents eligible have been vaccinated against coronavirus. The city's Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Tami Bartolomei said about 60 percent had gotten their first dose too. Anderson Valley was amongst the highest in the county. Along the coast they were in the median to high range, but out in Elk and Casper it was much lower. Also at the latest City Council meeting they discussed tossing to the state's color tiered system, no more masks in many indoor spaces for the fully vaccinated and other changes to the state's emergency orders put in place at the height of the pandemic. Bartolomei also told the council there will be a cooling station during these hot days at the civic center from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. where they will have water and socially-distanced chairs for people to sit in.

A state of emergency is in place due to the excessive heat. The Governor signed the order as residents are being told for the second day to voluntarily conserve energy during the early evening hours. The emergency proclamation suspends some permitting requirements and allows power plants to operate at a higher capacity if needed to meet the demand for electricity. Cal ISO said earlier this week if people follow the voluntary energy reduction there may not need to be any rolling blackouts. Last August there were 2 days of power outages impacting over 200,000 people, the first rolling blackouts in 2 decades.

The Governor says it's time to get back to work. Those who are receiving unemployment after losing jobs due to the pandemic will have to prove they're actively seeking work in order to continue getting benefits. Federal law says the unemployed must actively look for work to be eligible for unemployment benefits, but it's waived due to the pandemic as businesses were ordered to close. Not anymore, as coronavirus cases are falling and more people are getting vaccinated. And many state employers, and indeed nationwide, say they're having trouble finding workers.

2 people in Ukiah are arrested after a traffic stop turns up drugs and paraphernalia. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. reports one of their deputies stopped a car for a code violation. Laura Adams, the driver and Leartis Caradine, the passenger. He was on parole with a felony warrant for his arrest. And Adams was on probation from Mendocino County and seemed high so she was searched. The Deputy found 4 separate bags of suspected Fentanyl, another bag with heroin and 2 smoking pipes and a digital scale. The 2 were arrested for crimes including parole violation, having drugs for sale and transporting them. Adams was released with a promise to come back to court and Caradine was held without bail.

06/21/21

Passing phony checks will get you in trouble with the law like a man from Santa Rosa found out in Ukiah. A Mendocino County Deputy saw a man acting weird near a car so he approached. He says the guy gave a phony name, but he was identified as Michael Munoz. He was found to be on Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) from Sonoma County, plus he had a warrant for violating his release terms. He had a meth pipe, those checks from businesses throughout Sonoma County that were stolen. The checks were written out with high dollar amounts with fake signatures. So Munoz was arrested for possessing fraudulent checks, violating the terms of his release and an outstanding arrest warrant. He's held without bail in the Mendocino County Jail.

The Governor is said to be okay, after being attacked by a man during a visit to a barbershop and pizzeria in downtown Oakland. The CHP reports Newsom was walking to the businesses in Old Oakland to promote small businesses last Thursday when an "aggressive individual" approached him. The CHP is like the secret service for the governor, guarding him when he leaves Sacramento. They took the Governor away from the 54 year old man and arrested him. The East Bay Times reports the Governor joked and said some people just have different ways of saying hello. A woman called a reporter though saying the man arrested is her brother. She says he's homeless and has severe mental health problems. And the way he reportedly acted was "consistent with his past behavior."

A man from Sacramento found in Redwood Valley with a bunch of drugs and paraphernalia. A Mendocino County Deputy at a traffic stop Thursday and contacted Nicholas Rea, and his female passenger and while talking to the driver saw drug paraphernalia on the center console of the car and a container, used for heroin storage. Rea was on probation and had previous felonies on his record so a search was conducted and a loaded firearm was found under Rea's seat. There was suspected heroin, methamphetamine, paraphernalia and a loaded, .38 so he was arrested and booked on zero bail due to the pandemic. The charges include: Convicted Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Possessing a Controlled Narcotic and Paraphernalia.

A man in Point Arena's busted for indecent exposure and burglary. Police say Pete Rose, Jr. from Point Arena was found sleeping on the street in front of a business. A deputy found he had a warrant for his arrest and recognized him, knowing he had a warrant for burglary and another for indecent exposure, so he was arrested and booked into the Mendocino County Jail on \$25,000.00 bail.

A drug addict found to be in possession of a short, barreled shotgun has been arrested in Covelo. Early Saturday Deputies saw a car driving in a creek bed, then stop and turn their lights off. When approached the driver, Luiz Gonzalez was seen with an open container of alcohol, so they searched and found a loaded 12-gauge shotgun under the front seat. It was under 18 inches long, thus illegal. Deputies also say the guy seemed high and found his driver's license had been revoked for DUI. They also say the man was addicted to drugs and not allowed to have weapons. He also had a warrant for the DUI arrest. He was booked into jail on \$35,000.00 bail.

A man from Redwood Valley spotted driving the wrong way has been arrested. The Mendocino County Sheriff's office reports a patrol vehicle tried to stop a driver who sped up and passed a car on the right shoulder. They also passed another and drove over solid double yellow lines, then drove in the wrong lane of traffic. They were going about 100 miles per hour before crashing into a tree, then driving off again, through some vineyards, and ditching the car and running away. He found a boat and took into onto a pond, but couldn't swim so well so firefighters were called. They tried to get him out for two hours. His boat capsized though and he swam to shore so he was arrested there. He was identified as Nathan Feliz who had two active felony warrants for his arrest for possession and manufacturing of assault weapons for \$60,000.00 bail. He had other charges tacked on for evading at \$210,000.00 bail.

If you've been vaccinated and need proof there's new technology for that. You can upload if you've been inoculated for COVID-19. After getting your vaccination record from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, you can turn it into digital proof. The state Dept. of Public Health says you should keep the paper card, but they thought some would like to have an electronic record. The state has a special website for this where residents can upload their personal information and phone number. They will then get a personal identification number to be used to access a digital copy of your vaccine record with a scannable QR code.

A man from Ukiah and a teen have been busted for having drugs, nitrous oxide containers and a gun. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports contacting two people last Wednesday morning at the South Boat Ramp. They were found with several nitrous oxide canisters. They gave deputies phony names, but the deputy found the driver was a 17-year-old from Covelo and his passenger was 19-year-old, Bryan Sanchez of Ukiah. The deputy also found about a half ounce of suspected cocaine in one baggie and less than a gram of suspected heroin in another baggie in the pants pocket of the 17-year-old, (and) a loaded semi-automatic handgun in the glove box, and nitrous oxide all over the car. The teen went to Juvenile Hall on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm, carrying a loaded firearm while not the registered owner, giving a false name to an officer and possession of nitrous oxide. And Sanchez was booked for giving a fake name and possession of nitrous oxide and released at the scene.

A man from Willits has been arrested for an alleged violation of his probation after some sort of altercation by the Highway 101 Willits Bypass. According to Sheriff's deputies they went to some state property under the bypass after reports of a man and woman in an argument there. They say Tate Madson and the woman, who'd been living in the vacant field had an argument. Then they say he gave them a fake name because he had two felony arrest warrants for violation of probation. He was arrested for violation of probation and for giving a fake name to the deputy. He was booked in jail on \$45,000 bail.

A planned horse park is trotting along. The Westside Community Park Committee reports completing an encroachment from Highway 175 by the entrance into the eight-acre site where they've planned the horse park on the north side of the highway near Lakeport. A community member did the encroachment for free with the help of the Public Works Director and a Foreman. Another community member hauled asphalt there and the asphalt was purchased at a big discount for the horse park entrance. And Westside Community Park Committee members volunteered for traffic control while the paving was being done.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will be finalizing the new guidelines after the state reopening and Cal OSHA's new safety guidelines. It's all in alignment with CDC protocols for the fully vaccinated. Their meeting tomorrow morning after county staff and supervisors talked about the federal and state health guidance. Lake Co News reports fully vaccinated county employees can self-certify with human resources so they don't have to wear a mask. The board will also present a proclamation commending Dave Deakins for his 33 years of service to the residents of Lake County and to Jeff Rein for 30 years of service.

Since the state reopened and Cal OSHA announced modifications to mask wearing and social distancing for fully vaccinated individuals, the Lake County Superior Court reports its changing rules in the court and for employees. The presiding judge's order from earlier this month is being modified as of today to eliminate physical distancing requirements and end the face covering requirements, but only for fully vaccinated people. The order in place before will stay in place for those not fully vaccinated. So they have to keep wearing a mask at all times in the court unless public health directives change.

The logging that was going on in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest has stopped because of the protesters on foot there. The logging company's president says since protesters have been in active logging areas while trees were being cut, they had to stop for safety reasons. The Caspar 500 Timber Harvest Plan was ongoing, but some against the logging were in the area where the work was being done. The president of the company says he thinks they'll have to depend on law enforcement or Cal Fire to restart their work. More protesters were expected at the site today.

A wildfire that exploded in size in Clearlake seems to have calmed overnight. Firefighters on the scene of the windswept Wilkinson Fire around 5 last night. Cal Fire crews had it 75% contained around 4 hours later and were there all night putting out hot spots and mopping up the contained areas. There were mandatory evacuations that abated overnight, but an evacuation center was set up at Kelseyville High School. A few streets were closed off and the evacuations were lifted after a couple of hours. Cal Fire tweeted the fire was probably caused by a car fire that spread. There were reports that one structure burned, but we've not independently verified that. The fire reportedly burned 15 acres. And no injuries were reported. Power lines were not down, but power was cut to nearly 2,600 people as a precaution.

06/22/21

A fire in Redwood Valley destroyed two homes pretty quick in tinder dry conditions. Cal Fire Mendocino reported the 23 acres burned in grass and oak woodland in the 5700 block of Kirk Dr. There were also evacuations on Black Bart Drive where the two homes burned and another was damaged. The fire was named the "Kirk Incident". There were ground and aerial firefighters on the scene. That included several helicopters dumping water and air-tankers dumping fire retardant above Highway 20. And the Redwood Valley Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire and Cal Fire Mendocino unit fought back the flames as the California Highway Patrol, and Mendocino County Sheriff's Office assisted where they could. There was also a reverse 911 call that went out for the evacuations.

Bizarre incident reported in the 500 block of School Street. Early yesterday reports of a car upside down in the middle of the road next to a damaged truck and SUV. Mendo Fever reports police say they think the person driving the car was under driving age, but they left before they got there. They were found soon after though, injured at a nearby hotel. They were taken to a hospital and cited for the incident. The hotel apparently called police who contacted the juvenile who said yes, he was the driver and he was intoxicated. The CHP reported it as a hit and run in Covelo where a juvenile and a female went to the hospital. The female had a head injury according to the CHP Incident Page.

A new budget has been approved by the Clearlake City Council for fiscal year 2021-22. Lake Co News reports it's the largest ever budget since the city first incorporated because of investment in infrastructure. The city manager and mayor commented on the size of the budget and its historic nature. It's for nearly \$57.5 million in spending, another 53.5 or so in revenue and the general fund comes in at a little less than \$8 million. The projected revenue is at about 3 times what the city got last year, but is also helped by grants and settlements. The infrastructure projects will cost the city about \$36 million. The city manager says the capital improvements will have a dramatic effect and some will start next spring.

The state Legislature is working on protecting people who still cannot afford their rent due to the pandemic. Rental eviction protections were supposed to come to an end, but lawmakers are working on an extension of emergency rental aid which will cover all of their rent over the course of the worst of the pandemic. The Press Democrat reports renter advocates are worried if there's no statewide moratorium on most evictions continued then many won't be able to stay in their homes. Some chatter in Sacramento is that lawmakers will work to extend the moratorium at least thru September or maybe until the end of the year.

18 cases of the highly transmissible coronavirus strain known as Delta have been confirmed in Sonoma County. Public health officials say the mutation of the virus spreading fast across the United States has some European officials reinstating or extending pandemic restrictions. This is the strain first detected in India. The Press Democrat reports an infectious disease expert at UC Berkeley says the strain is more transmissible than anything we've faced so far. Across the pond, it's causing a spike in cases in those not vaccinated or under-vaccinated. The Delta strain is about 7% of the infections that have been confirmed in Sonoma County this week. Last week it was at just about 1%.

There will be live in person concerts returning to Ukiah. The Daily Journal reports the Ukiah Community Concert Association is starting back up in September with a slate of shows thru next May. They begin with Classical Pianist Lindsay Garritson on Sept. 26th and next year the Professional Pianists Concerts will be back. For more information, visit: ukiahconcerts.org.

To get ready for the July 4th festivities in Fort Bragg, the city's allowing folks to remove driftwood that's washed ashore on Noyo Beach. In the past it was removed by the city or burned or by people who got permits to take the wood. This year they're allowing it with just a beach permit, but weekdays only from 7:30am – 5pm. You have to look at the signs posted on the beach and follow the rules. They ask those taking the wood to do a site cleanup when you're done and only use hand tools. You cannot drive onto the beach either. You do have to prove you have liability insurance so you can get permission to take the wood.

It's happening again, a massive backlog of unemployment claims in Calif. Claims up at more than a million, one hundred thousand the week of June 12th. And the backlog of claims was up 1,100 from the week of June 5th. The Employment Development Dept. reports claims for unemployment benefits that require over 21 days to approve or reject were at over 222,500 June 12th, up 1,200 from the week before. Then there are the claims that are just out there in limbo to get certified, there are over 900,000 of those which was down about 100 from a week before. Over 2.5 million people filed claims as the pandemic broke with about a 52% recovery from a year ago, or around 1.3 million jobs regained.

If you're cruising through Fort Bragg, be ready for some alternate routes. The city has a major storm drain and alley rehabilitation project ongoing. The city announced starting the Maple St. project which continues though the middle of July or so. They're replacing about 1,000 feet of storm drain underground and putting in new pavement, so there will be some bottleneck driving in the area. Plus they're putting in some new curbs that are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant and repairing bits of sidewalk. Look out for detours if you're new to the area.

UUSD Food Distribution New Hours: 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

06/23/21

We are excited to offer FREE FOOD for every Ukiah Unified student and ANY CHILD 18 years or younger every Wednesday at Ukiah High School, from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Items may include corn dogs, chicken, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, salad, cereal, bread, cheese, and milk. Some menu items are limited, and the selection may vary.

From Mendocino County Public Health Office

The risk for COVID-19 exposures and infections will remain in California beyond June 15th, and the continued use of face coverings helps prevent COVID-19 transmission. California's updated Face Coverings Guidance is summarized below. The purpose of this guidance is to protect those members of our community who are still vulnerable (those who are not vaccinated, children less than 12 years old, and those who are immunocompromised). For those people, wearing a face covering properly protects themselves and others, particularly in indoor settings.

Current Orders for Mendocino County follow the state guidelines:

Everyone must wear face coverings in the following settings:

On public transit and in transit hubs

In healthcare facilities where vulnerable individuals may be present

In hospitals

In nursing homes and long-term care facilities

In homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers

Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings

· Unvaccinated individuals are required to wear face coverings in indoor public settings and businesses such as retail, restaurants, theaters, meetings, and state & local government offices serving the public

Fully vaccinated people do not need to wear face coverings in these settings.. [NT1] Any I

Business owners/operators and venue operators have 3 choices to comply with this Order and they should post whichever method they use:

Require everyone to wear face coverings

Allow vaccinated people to self-attest that they are vaccinated

Use a method of verification for vaccinated people such as showing their vaccine card, a photo-copy or digital proof

No person can be prevented from wearing a face covering.

People who are exempt from wearing face coverings include:

- children less than 2 years old
- people who have a medical or mental health condition or disability
- others (including hearing impaired) for whom a mask would cause an increased risk

In workplaces, employers are subject to Cal-OSHA COVID-19 Standards, and should consult those regulations for additional requirements.

Environmental restoration of tribal land can resume. Back in January the previous federal administration declared areas in Calif. that had been damaged by construction and the operation of the Central Valley Project were done, meaning no more money for restoration after the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act, so water and power contracts would continue. The project did harm the Hoopa tribe says to the Trinity River basin and the fishery the tribe has relied on for decades. The Hoopa tribe also brought up to the newer administration that the Trump administration assigned as much as \$400 million to be paid to central valley contractors instead to their interior secretary's personal clients.

06/26/21

An ex-Marine Sergeant who received the Purple Heart during the Iraq war and has a business in Willits has pleaded guilty to federal firearm charges. Jonathan Cuney apparently had a storage shed in Redway where he kept ghost guns and ammo along with other firearms and ammunition. He pleaded guilty in the State of New York. Once he was a war hero for seeing a grenade in Fallujah near his comrades and detonated it to his own detriment, being wounded by flying shrapnel. He was also previously convicted of gun trafficking and pleaded guilty then too. The items he had in storage were shipped to Willits and Rhode Island. He then made non-serialized handguns, rifles, and silencers. He faces ten years in prison and 3 years post release supervision.

Lakeport police are partnering with the company Ring, who makes doorbell cameras and will also take part in the Ring Neighbors App. The online program will allow owners of the Ring system to help cops track criminals in the neighborhood as crimes are committed. They liken it to an online Neighborhood Watch. The app has millions using it already. Users can log in and watch their neighborhood in real time, then automatically share crime and safety related videos, pictures and texts. They can also get texts from their neighbors, local police and other selected crime and safety news sources in real time.

As the drought gets even worse in Calif., construction crews are finishing a \$10 million emergency project in the Delta to preserve water supplies. The rock barrier is being built in Contra Costa County. It's 800-feet long, 120 feet wide, and in the water 35 feet down. The idea is to block salt water from the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay going too far east and in turn tainting state and federal pumps near the town of Tracy. They are tasked with sending fresh drinking water south to 27 million people all the way from San Jose out to Los Angeles. It also goes out to millions of acres of farmland in the Central Valley and beyond. The drought barrier at False River would essentially keep the salt water away from the pumps, or they'd have to be shut down.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors gives the thumbs up to workplace regulations for county employees, following state guidelines that changed last week. On Thursday the Cal/OSHA Board updated safety regulations to be in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health. On Tuesday Lake County followed as they're the largest employer in the county with around 1,000 employees. With that, those vaccinated can go maskless, they will self-certify. So far, they've had about 400 certifications. Those who have not been vaccinated will have to continue to socially distance and wear masks. Those who are fully vaccinated don't have to wear masks unless on public transit, in school and health care settings, correctional facilities and detention centers, homeless and emergency shelters, and cooling centers. The county must provide masks to anyone who requests them.

Some funny money is circulating in Lakeport. Police warning businesses and the community at large to watch out for counterfeit cash circulating locally. Police say they were contacted by vendors at the farmer's market that they received phony \$100 bills. The two vendors said those who gave them the bills were described as a man in his 30's with medium complexion, and two lines tattooed under one eye, and the other suspect was a woman with a light complexion, with one or more missing front teeth and an A-line hairstyle.

A new campaign in Western States called "a dozen reasons not to speed" is joined by the CHP. State patrols or law enforcement in California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming are looking for people speeding. The campaign from this Friday, June 25th until Sunday, June 27th. The CHP commissioner says "excessive speed and unsafe driving are a threat to everyone on the roadway" so they'll be out with state partners this weekend the commissioner says, "with the common goal of saving lives through speed enforcement." It comes after over 500 people died in speed related car crashes last year and another 57,000 were injured in crashes caused by unsafe speed.

A fire we reported about in Clearlake earlier this week is surrounded, but apparently still smoldering. A Facebook post yesterday said the fire which started Monday evening blackened 20-25 acres. The fire is believed to have started by a car fire that spread. Firefighters were there overnight into yesterday mopping up and stomping out hot spots. There were also fire engines and other equipment in the area. Some 2,600 or so lost their power because of a power down for safety reasons, but that's been restored. There were also mandatory evacuations for a couple of hours, then downgraded to an advisory. The National Weather Service reported 10 mph winds at the time of the fire, with winds gusting up to 20 mph.

A fire just outside Mendocino County in Redwood Valley is out after it destroyed two outbuildings. Cal Fire reported the Kirk Fire burned 23 acres and destroyed two outbuildings. There was also a third building damaged.

A lawsuit has been filed by three people along with the Animal Legal Defense Fund against the National Park Service after several dozen tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore died from starvation and dehydration. The group says the animals couldn't move beyond a fence the Park Service put up so they wouldn't compete for food and water with cattle. The lawsuit claims the Park Service was negligent and more animals may die if they don't provide them food and water during the drought.

While fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County, and many other spots in Calif. due to tinder dry, drought conditions, or other reasons, now there's concern there may not be enough to meet consumer demand. Many local charities benefit from sales. They're supposed to start next week but some of the stands were reportedly concerned they would sell out immediately. There's been a holdup with the supply chain as many fireworks are stuck offshore and there's been reduced manufacturing due to COVID.

Some who renewed their drivers license in Calif during the pandemic will be eligible for a free upgrade to Real ID. The DMV reports allowing anyone 70 or older who has reached the limit for out-of-office renewals to renew online or by mail, but they still needed to make an office visit to get a Real ID card. Now the DMV says it'll waive the application fee to upgrade through the end of the year. The agency reported issuing over 5 million licenses and ID cards that were not Real ID for those eligible for one since last year. The Real ID will be required in May 2023 to travel within the US or to get into federal facilities or military bases.

The county's general plan has been updated by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The board mostly focused on safety issues then moved to cannabis agriculture and proposed caps on cultivation site size and fines for illegal water hauling. They looked at the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, The Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Development and Resource Management.

A special meeting held by the Fort Bragg City Council was a breeze. They only spent 10 minutes, before unanimously approving buying a desalination and reverse osmosis machine. Staff had requested \$600,000 be set aside for several drought related work and equipment. The machine will cost just over half that amount. The city's main source of water in summer and fall, the Noyo River is very low, below the worst drought year on record, 1977. Trucking water in from Ukiah or Willits is not really an option, so desalination was recommended to take water from the water treatment plant which can provide almost 300,000 gallons a day.

06/24/21

Ca Fire reports having a townhall to discuss the ongoing work at the Jackson Demonstration Forest. Emphasis on Demonstration. They invite interested citizens to meet at Camp 20 at the State Forest this Saturday, June 26 at 10 a.m. They say it's to allow community members an opportunity to express themselves and their ideas about forest management and for CAL FIRE to provide information and education about how they manage the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. It comes after activists all but stopped a logging operation by being on foot and asking loggers to stop their work. The manager of the loggers said they had to stop for everyone's safety and they'd have to wait for either Cal Fire or law enforcement to step in and help.

The Delta strain of coronavirus which first surfaced in India has made its way to Calif. We told you it was in Sonoma County earlier this week... now we hear it's in Trinity County. The Trinity County Public Health Office says it's working with the state Dept. of Public Health and local healthcare providers, and laboratories to contain any positive cases, then share info on any strains identified in the county. They say all residents not yet vaccinated should do so. They say especially the Pfizer and Moderna variety are effective against the highly contagious and possibly deadlier strains. The department also says those who get an mRNA vaccine, that's Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or to transmit COVID to anyone else.

The Gov. said 90,000 acres of land have been managed to protect against possible wildfires. But Capital Public Radio investigated and says it's actually only 13% of the 90,000 acres. The gov. toured the state before the pandemic promising that he had started 35 high-priority forest management projects. The Cal Fire Chief is taking the heat though, saying Cal Fire did not do their job educating the public or the Governor's office about the completed work. The Governor has not responded to the report or the Chief's statement in response to it. But the Natural Resources Agency says the Chief spoke on his behalf.

More mandatory water conservation measures have been put in place in Sonoma County. As we are in another historic drought, the city councils in Petaluma and Sonoma followed Cloverdale, Healdsburg and Rohnert Park to approve the mandate to reduce the use of water plus restrictions on how water can be used and at what time of day. In Sonoma they're asking residents to conserve by 20% of their use from 2018-2020. The five communities are asked to limit landscape irrigation, washing cars and other vehicles, filling swimming pools, wash down pavement and sidewalks, using potable water for dust control, using ornamental fountains and more.

An appeals court is looking at several gun laws in the state including large capacity magazine that have over 10 rounds of ammo. It could topple California's 32 year old military style rifle ban which a district court overturned earlier this month. The ban was instituted after an AK-47 and large-capacity magazines were used at a school yard in Stockton where five children were killed in 1989. The democratic justices on the panel argued, among other things, that less people are killed if a shooter in a massacre had to stop to reload a gun, citing cases where people were able to escape; or if a shooter was caught as they tried to reload.

A woman in trouble with the law and the Mendocino County Superior Court evacuated after a bogus bomb threat. The Ten Mile Branch of court had to be closed and evacuated yesterday for about 45 minutes after a woman threw a bag inside the front entrance to the court. She reportedly told security officers there were explosives in the bag and fentanyl, before she left. A police officer from Fort Bragg went towards the bag, opening it and confirmed no bomb. The suspect was apparently a known homeless person with mental health issues. And since the county does not have a bomb sniffing dog, the officer took a chance. They're still searching for the woman to arrest her for the fake bomb threat.

Several fires over the last week in Lake County look to have been caused by lawn mowers and cars. Lake Co News reports the Pomo Fire last Thursday burned 42 acres near Nice. That one started by a car fire but they're still investigating. Another fire near Blue Lakes burned less than an acre was started by a tractor that ignited brush. The Hill Fire Sunday in north Lakeport was three fires that burned into one and blackened an acre after a car passed by, it's being investigated as maybe being involved somehow. On Monday a bigger fire we reported on burned 25 acres. The Wilkinson Fire triggered evacuations and cars and motor homes were involved. With that firefighters remind, it's hot and early in the summer which means we could have a potentially busy fire season. Be careful with lawnmowers that can hit rocks and spark fires.

A special Clearlake City Council meeting's called for to discuss bringing on a new finance director. The meeting this morning at 10-30 with limited in person capacity, and the rest on the city's Zoom account. You can catch it on YouTube too. The council's considering hiring Kelcey Young as the city's director of finance starting July 18th. She would make about 120,000/year plus relocation help and other benefits. Andrew White, the city's police chief has been the acting finance director in the interim.

It's not gone, just smoldering. That's what the Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren had to say about the Covid-19 pandemic to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday. Dr. Coren says there have been clusters of cases in local businesses, schools and churches and more cases since Memorial Day, Father's Day and graduations. He also warned the July 4th holiday and summer travel are around the corner, so his priority is to get more people to get their vaccine. The county is averaging about 5-7 cases/100,000 people at the moment, with the most cases Coren says in Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Willits where the lowest vaccination rates have been recorded.

An urgency ordinance is in place in Humboldt County after their Board of Supervisors extended the hemp cultivation moratorium for the coastal zone. It's for another six months until the county gets feedback from the California Coastal Commission. The board initially passed a permanent ban on industrial hemp cultivation instead of a temporary moratorium, but they reportedly intended on amending the ordinance one day to allow for research into noncommercial hemp cultivation. Also the College of the Redwoods was interested in some growing for educational and research purposes.

It's not always easy filling county positions, so the Lake County Board of Supervisors has given the go-ahead to increase the incentives for jobs that have been hard to fill. That could include a potential sign on bonus, for some jobs, it might be as much as \$10,000 which will come from cannabis tax revenue. The positions are many that could get that high signing bonus, including for lawyers, engineers, licensed medical staff, mid/senior-level managers and social workers, and mental health and substance abuse professionals. There are incentives for the sheriff's office too of up to \$10,000 for deputies. The sheriff said though that retention is just as much of a challenge as recruitment.

After the 2020 Presidential Election there were concerns raised due to All-Mail-in-voting, which was of course, due to the pandemic. The Mendocino County Grand Jury investigated the All Main In Ballots and how they were distributed and how the County's Elections Office ran for the November 2020 election. The jury also looked into the county's participation in the Voters Choice Act of 2016 and computer systems installed for the 2020 Primary and General elections and found the results were reliable. The jury's report said the county can rely on the election results as reported by the Elections Office of Mendocino County to assure accurate vote tallies. And the report said there wasn't much of an impact on the workload for the local county Elections Office staff and volunteers from prior elections.

06/25/21

2 men in Ukiah have been arrested after a traffic stop turns up weapons. The Sheriff's office reports a patrol deputy pulled a pickup over Monday morning for expired registration, finding two men inside. The driver, Lawrence Ortiz and his passenger, Luiz Gonzalez who was found to be on Pre-Trial Release with terms for search. The deputy found he had a methamphetamine smoking pipe, meth and a weapon. There was an electroshock weapon and a baton with an electroshock device at the end. The driver was arrested for being in possession of the stun gun, possession of a billy club and drugs. He was let go on zero bail due to pandemic restrictions. Same for Gonzalez who was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

The Lake County office of Emergency Services is having a meeting for the community ahead of fire season to be prepared. They say it's an effort to better communicate with residents and businesses during evacuations or emergencies. They will have an interactive map to show which was launched online to provide important emergency info during an event. All of Lake County has been divided into specific zones which will be used for now on to identify areas affected by whatever event is happening. The meeting is this Tuesday night from 5:30pm and 7:00pm on Zoom and the Sheriff's office Facebook page.

<https://lakecounty.zoom.us/j/98452618853?pwd=Z3FrdExWZTU4U3FqelprNXpRUGh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 984 5261 8853 Passcode: 897589

A man in Willits has been arrested after an ATV from the city's Waste Water Treatment Plant was stolen. Police say they got a call to the plant earlier this week and looked at surveillance footage. They say they also questioned community members who identified a possible suspect. They came to find the guy was arrested in Sonoma County on an unrelated charge and was being held for a warrant out of Willits. Then they turned up leads about where the stolen ATV was so they went to a home and found it, and confirmed it was the same suspect who probably took the ATV. They returned the vehicle to the City of Willits Waste Water Treatment Plant. Brandon Langenderfer of Willits has been identified as the man who took the ATV.

A fight between a man and woman in the town of Mendocino reported but no arrests are made. The Sheriff's office on scanner traffic said they were responded to a domestic dispute where a woman hit a man with her truck and in turn the man hit the woman's truck with a sledgehammer. The scanner traffic confirmed the woman was driving a green Nissan pickup truck with a damaged windshield and left the scene.

Sonic Drive-In has made a huge donation to teachers during the pandemic. The company says as teachers had to maneuver the ever-shifting learning environment, they put up \$1.5 million for teacher requests on a national education nonprofit site, DonorsChoose. The donation was made on Teacher Appreciation Day, May 4th as part of the fast food company's Limeades for Learning initiative. They say the donation funded over 7,000 teacher requests across the country including teachers in Redwood Valley at Peak Middle School, Ukiah, and at South Valley High. The company says their Limeades for Learning has allowed them to donate over \$19 million to public school teachers, helping over 36,000 teachers, impacting almost 7.4 million students in public schools nationwide since 2009.

A new law, if the Governor signs the bill could help students who were impacted by the pandemic. An Assemblywoman from San Diego wrote the bill. It's to protect kids she says who had low grades, and instead change them to a pass or no pass option, waive local graduation requirements that are higher than the state credit and course minimums for students who were juniors or seniors in the 2020-21 school year. And students could officially request their school allow them to repeat a grade. It passed the Legislature Monday.

The recall effort against Gov. Gavin Newsom keeps moving along. The Secretary of State's office reports there were only 43 people who asked for their signatures to be withdrawn. There are still well over 1.7 million signatures on the petition, over the amount needed to trigger the recall election later this year. The news comes as CapRadio and NPR's California Newsroom report said the Gov. had exaggerated the state's progress on fire prevention. But the Cal Fire chief took the blame for progress the Gov. was touting, saying he didn't communicate correctly to the public or the Governor's office.

A new report says there's a shortage of transportation options for those who don't drive in Mendocino County. The Daily Journal reports the elder population is the biggest chunk of folks in the county. The report says in less than 10 years one out of 4 residents will be over 65. And the 85+ crowd will more than double by then. The report says the MTA's Dial A Ride is in Ukiah and Fort Bragg and is only for those 62 and older. The Ukiah Senior Center also has a bus to take folks to medical appointments, to run certain errands and shop. There's an MTA bus ride in Willits that also moves through town from senior housing, the senior center, hospital and health clinics, city hall, downtown and Evergreen shopping areas, and Sherwood Valley casino.

Lawmakers have passed a new bill so that statewide elected officials will be referred to with gender neutral names. Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan says while the Gov. was searching for a new Attorney General this year, she looked up the job requirements and found there was a lot of use in the state code of "he" and "him" and "his" regarding the attorney general and other statewide elected officials. Bauer-Kahan's bill passed the Legislature yesterday so laws about statewide elected officials will be updated with gender-neutral terms. The bill heads to the Gov. to be signed into law.

06/28/21

Several ambulances have been called after reports of a disturbance in Willits. Police called to the scene, along with deputies. There were reportedly 2 people with injuries after the incident, but they refused help. Mendo Fever reports hearing on the scanner there was a juvenile who came out of a home and said someone was bleeding inside the home. A responding police officer told dispatch there had been a large crowd there when they got there and a woman was heard screaming.

A kayak found near Van Damme Beach along the Mendocino Coast with nobody inside triggered a search. Before 3 pm yesterday the water rescue started after the empty vessel was found in Little River. The kayak was reported to be blue, there was a paddle inside, jacket, and water bottle, but no pilot. Fort Bragg Fire, Mendocino Fire, the Coast Guard, State Parks Dept., and an air ambulance were called to the scene, but several hours later they were called off after nothing was found.

A fire started in the northern Hoopa area spurred residents to evacuate. The Fire Dept. and Office of Emergency Services ordered the evacuation with residents told to shelter at a neighborhood facility. At the time of the request it was over 100 degrees outside. Cal Fire was dropping water at the scene and 3 tankers were on hand also. The fire burned about 5-7 acres and the evacuations were lifted after about 4 hours. The fire chief said the fire appeared to be human caused. There was one heat related injury.

Free after school programs are being offered by the Ukiah Unified School District. In partnership with the City of Ukiah, and Near & Arnold's School of Performing Arts & Cultural Education (SPACE). They partnered at the height of the pandemic too. They'll be offering free after-school programs for any student ages 5 – 18 through the City's Summer Safari program and SPACE camps. They say it will be their priority for a safe, fun, and relaxing experience for students and a much-needed break for parents. They are 5 days/week for six weeks at Frank Zeek, Grace Hudson, and Nokomis Elementary Schools. There is exercise, arts and crafts, activities, and games, directed by local teens and young people employed by the City of Ukiah.

There is a new Transition Director for the Public Health Branch of Health & Human Services. Anne Molgaard has more than 30 years' experience in health and human services in nonprofits and government sectors. Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo says as Public Health and Health and Human Services are separated to two departments "Anne will lead Public Health through the transition". She says she's known for her organizational analysis and practical approach to public service. Public Health includes programs like WIC (Women, Infants, & Children), Nursing, Community Wellness and Environmental Health and the county's COVID Pandemic Response.

More info for the public per Cal Fire regarding the Jackson Demonstration Forest. They're inviting the public for a community meeting on the way this forest and others are managed. Jackson is the largest state-owned forest in California. The meeting on Zoom and the Cal Fire Mendocino Unit Facebook page and in public tomorrow night at the Willits High School baseball field at 6:30.

It's like before times in Clearlake where they're having the full Independence Day celebration this year, including a carnival, concert, parade, festival, fireworks and worm races, like in years past. Lake Co News also reports the Lakeshore Lions Club of Clearlake is sponsoring the 64th annual Redbud Parade and Festival this Saturday, starting at 11 a.m. The theme of the parade is "Stars and Stripes." There will be locals marching along with a marching band, decorated floats, vintage cars, parade and show horses, fire and police vehicles, and more. At Austin Park after they will set up vendors and arts and crafts, along with games and entertainment. The famed worm races are sponsored by the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Arrests in Clearlake during a special traffic enforcement operation. There were several traffic stops for the operation with 3 tickets given out for speeding, four tickets for moving violations and eight citations for mechanical violations. 2 arrests were made because the drivers had active warrants. 2 others got tickets for driving on a suspended license and one for driving with no license. An arrest for DUI, the driver was also in a stolen car. Police remind that speeding, not wearing seat belts and distracted driving can put you and others in danger.

In Lake County, they're holding a Countywide Community Visioning Forum. The Forum's Planning Committee is holding their second meeting, on Zoom tomorrow from 6 to 8 p.m. The county announced it like this: residents from Lake County's richly diverse communities saw as the Board of Supervisors unanimously proclaimed "Promoting Tolerance, Respect, Equity and Inclusion" among their utmost priorities. They promised meaningful actions and activities that will build bridges where there may be walls; fostering tolerance, respect, understanding, equity and inclusion; promoting non-violence and non-violent conflict resolution; focusing resources on underlying causes and conditions that lead to inequitable resource and justice distribution; and relevant solutions for any social injustices, as they may come to light.

The Gov. working with legislative leaders in the Senate and Assembly then announced an extension of the state's evictions moratorium, and an infusion of more money in the rent relief program, all related to the coronavirus pandemic. The proposals would mean \$5 billion in federal rental assistance will go to state tenants and small landlords and also protect vulnerable households from eviction. The National Housing Law Project works with lower income communities and says people in rentals still face financial obstacles so the moratorium will help. Plus it will help landlords too.

Grad students at Univ. of Calif. campuses may soon unionize. Student Researchers United, a committee of graduate student researchers, has filed a petition to get certified as a union for their 17,000 or so members. Those organizing say they want more money and healthcare benefits, to be protected against harassment and discrimination and have a formal grievance procedure. Right now the graduate student researchers are part-timers under a faculty member or principal investigator receiving anything between around \$1,800 to \$3,500/month. They get UC-provided healthcare.

The Gov. says Calif. is roaring back from the coronavirus pandemic, and now reports say, so is the real estate market. The industry basically closed in March of 2020, but then started to ramp back up last May to October. The North Bay Real Estate market inventory including Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties was at around 40% of what it was last May, but 10% above last month. There were more than 1,900 sales last month, 17% higher than a year ago. In Mendocino County at the end of May there were about 140 homes for sale as opposed to 236 a year ago. There were 70 sales last month, 32% higher than a year ago.

Even though the state is fully reopened after the worst days of the pandemic, senior centers across Lake and Mendocino counties are staying closed for in person meals and other services, but are opened for some. The Area Agency on Aging's Governing Board had a meeting last week. They manage the senior centers. Money set aside for last year because of the pandemic. Some of the facilities reported less money this year though. There were increases in minimum wage and food and gas for Meals on Wheels employees. In Fort Bragg, they're serving meals and are opened for congregate dining. The Lakeport Senior Center are meeting next month to assess, but they're looking at a September reopening. And at the Highlands Senior Center they've re-started activities like Zumba and other fitness classes, which are not that big so they can distance themselves. There were two seniors there who reported positive COVID tests. They're waiting until after the Independence Day holiday to assess what else might open. They are doing Meals on Wheels deliveries, which are up.

Cal Fire is reminding that fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County. They've been sending notices out to remind residents to do their part to have a safe holiday and help prevent wildfires and injuries caused by fireworks. As a reminder too, two out of five fires on the 4th of July are caused by fireworks, more than any other cause of fires. The agency says the state has zero tolerance for the use or sale of illegal fireworks. CAL FIRE is working closely with local law enforcement and firefighting agencies to take away illegal fireworks and prosecute those found in possession of them. In Mendocino County, all types of fireworks are illegal and their use is punishable by law. Anyone possessing, transporting or using fireworks in Mendocino County is in violation of the law. The costs are in the hundreds of thousands and sometimes, millions of dollars to fight fires and you will be responsible for that and any damage caused by a fire.

There's a new threat to water bodies in the state. So there's a request if you're an avid angler to help prevent allowing invasive Quagga and Zebra Mussels in the ponds at Mill Creek County Park. When they are introduced into water bodies, they negatively impact fish and waterfowl populations, increase maintenance costs to drinking water and dam infrastructure, and alter ecosystem functions in detrimental and unmanageable ways. There are not any Quagga or Zebra Mussels in North Coast waterways, including Mill Creek Ponds, Lake Sonoma, or Lake Mendocino. So the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District is doing surface monitoring to make sure it stays that way. They will be there Saturday, on Free Fishing Day. The day anglers do not need a fishing license to fish in California.

Mendocino deputies find a sex offender who'd been living in the county for nearly a decade without registering his new address, which is illegal. A Deputy reportedly found out about Troy Mihalcean who has lived in Calif. since 2013 without registering after moving here from Illinois. Apparently the man is a registered sex offender there and was told he had to register within 3 days of arriving, but never did. So Mihalcean was arrested for failing to register as a sex offender and booked into Mendocino County Jail, He was released though because of the zero bail restrictions with the pandemic.

06/29/21

A man on parole in Mendocino County in trouble again as deputies find he had cut off his electronic ankle monitor. The Sheriff's Dept. reports on Friday Travis Bonson was arrested again in Willits. He was found in his car and his parole officer was called. They requested Bonson be arrested for violating his parole terms. He was booked and held without bail.

Another week of illegal marijuana cultivation gardens gone bust. The Sheriff's Office reports a fourth week of enforcement turned up over 500 plants in Willits, which were eradicated. The growing was happening in non-permitted structures, without a County Cultivation Permit, or State Cultivation License. Those responsible reportedly voluntarily got rid of the plants to avoid penalties. At one farm, they yanked out 345 plants and the second, another 129 plants were abated. Last week they were in Laytonville and found the same, non-permitted structures and no permits, and that person pulled out 450 plants to avoid further trouble. Another 1371 non-permitted commercially cultivated cannabis plants were discovered, and voluntarily abated too.

A man in Ukiah's busted by deputies for domestic violence. A woman called dispatch to say her boyfriend, Fredy Reyes-Rubio had kicked and punched her while she was on the bathroom floor. When they arrived they found the couple had gotten into an argument while he was drinking whiskey, and he punched the woman in the head, then hit her in the head with a small portable speaker. She got to the bathroom, where the attack continued. The woman was able to call 911. Deputies say she had visible injuries so they arrested Reyes-Rubio for domestic violence battery and booked him into the Mendocino County Jail where he was held on \$25,000.00 bail

The Sheriff's office says they're out looking once again for that red-bearded man accused of twice ripping off the same house in Elk. The Sheriff's Office says yesterday they went out searching again for William Evers, described as a 40 year old white man, 6 foot 1 inch tall, 180 pounds with brown eyes, brown hair and reddish facial hair with either a skull or a multiple skulls tattoo on his right upper arm, "Demon face" tattoo on his upper left arm and unknown prominent tattoo on his chest. He's considered armed and dangerous. This was a planned search over multiple days so residents will see law enforcement in the area. He's wanted for a string of local home burglaries. Anyone with info is asked to call the Sheriff's office or the Sheriff's office Tip Line.

A man has drowned in Lake Berryessa. The Napa County Sheriff's Office sent rescue divers out Sunday and found the 25 year old man who drowned while swimming at the lake. The man identified as Marcos Salvador Grijalva Pocasangre of Guatemala. The second person to drown there in two weeks. The latest man was apparently an experienced swimmer. His friends said he was trying to swim from one end of a cove to another. His body was found about 15 feet from shore near McKenzie Ridge about 2½ hours after he disappeared in water 12 to 15 feet deep. Police say they're not sure why he drowned or if he may have been impaired somehow. It's nine days after a 22 year old man from San Jose died in the reservoir. Billy Dy was also described as an experienced swimmer.

Several volunteers showed up to help clean up the Clear Lake shore. Lake Co News reports it was a hot day last Saturday when a couple dozen people showed up for the Water Resources Department's AmeriCorps CivicSpark Fellows event. It went for about four hours and included Lake County Special Districts, the cities of Clearlake and Lakeport, C&S Waste Solutions and Lake County Public Services. The agencies led the volunteers to Library Park in Lakeport, Redbud Park in Clearlake and Lucerne Harbor Park where they collected over 1,300 pounds of waste. The city manager of Lakeport said they were thankful for the help.

CalFire is reminding about the misuse of "safe and sane" fireworks. The fireworks go on sale in hundreds of communities across the state today. The safe and sane fireworks are allowed in the city of Lakeport, but only from Thursday to Sunday. If they are not considered safe and sane, like sky-rockets, bottle rockets, roman candles, aerial shells, firecrackers and other types that explode, and go into the air, or move on the ground uncontrollably, fines in the tens of thousands can be imposed. Plus, there could even be jail time. As we've been reporting the state has zero tolerance for the use and sale of illegal fireworks and you could be held responsible for a fire, including fires starting by safe and sane fireworks.

The City of Willits reports both of the reservoirs are at normal capacity for this time of year. The Willits Public Works Director says they're at 83%, which is an average year. Both the Centennial and Morris reservoirs send water to residents and businesses in the city limits and to some others outside the city. They allow zero recreational activities at either reservoir. They are south of town and part of the Eel River Watershed. It's the third biggest watershed in the state of California with headwaters in Lake County, forks also flow through Mendocino and Trinity counties before the river pours into the ocean in Humboldt County. Water gets pumped by new solar panels that operate the city's water plant from the lower reservoir, Morris, to the treatment plant before getting into town.

The Mendocino County Grand Jury has come in with a report on the Parks and Rec department. After a citizen's complaint an investigation was launched into the agency and an alleged loss of about \$2,995,000 in grant money. The money for work on Hwy 20 on land owned by the department for use as an off highway vehicle park. The review regarding matching funds and a contract for work on fencing. The grant funding has now been pulled and a suggestion made that any board member involved in the grant applications should resign. There had been a planned 18 hole public golf course on the land in question, but there were problems that turned up in the environmental impact report. But apparently parks and rec decided to move forward anyway, but with the off road vehicle park instead.

No masks or social distancing required at the latest Fort Bragg City Council meeting, and those there say it felt like normal times again. But for the hybrid format with residents allowed to Zoom in like they did all during the first days of the pandemic. The meeting had all your normal times event mentions like the fireworks show which is happening off the Noyo Headlands parking lot this weekend. They also talked about the new ball courts at the C.V. Starr Community Center and rebuild of the old gym, or East Gym at Town Hall. The council also approved of some new electric vehicle charging stations, updated a bunch of city pay plans and engineering services connected to the city's economic development of the old mill site.

The recall election against the Governor is moving forward, but maybe sooner than we expected. Republican legislators say it's unfair though, that their counterparts from the Democratic party are trying to get the election moved up. They say Democrats acted unfairly by passing a bill to get the recall date at least a month sooner than under state law. So now it's on the Governor's desk for signature to change existing state law. For their part, Democrats say it seems like something the recall supporters would want. They gathered the needed 1.7 million signatures to get the recall on a ballot, which was supposed to happen later this year. Without the recall, Newsom would have been up for re-election next year.

06/30/21

If you lost power in Ukiah Monday it's because a suspected drunk driver slammed into a utility pole near the corner of Washington Avenue and South Dora Street. About 1,200 customers were knocked out around 11pm after police allege 19-year-old Jose J. Flores Lopez ran a stoplight and ended up knocking the pole and power lines across the road. Two ambulances responded to the scene and while one was for Lopez police did not make public who the other patient was. After getting medical treatment Lopez was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and booked into the Mendocino County Jail. Ukiah Electric Utility crews got half the homes back up and running within an hour, but the other half took until mid-morning Tuesday.

Cal Fire has a new chopper in it's firefighting arsenal. The Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit says their new Sikorsky S70i Fire Hawk has arrived at the Boggs Mountain Helitack Base. The new chopper replaces a Vietnam-era in-service UH-1H Super Huey that has been in service with Cal Fire since 1990. The purchase came from a 2018 approval from the Governor's Office for Cal Fire to buy 12 new Sikorsky's to replace the fleet of 12 Super Hueys with Lake County News reporting that four of them will arrive this year. The Fire Hawks can carry a dozen people and deliver a helitack crew for ground firefighting and then transition to dropping water or foam. And they can carry up to 1,000 gallons of water or foam, Super Huey had the maximum of 324 gallons.

Three buildings are said to be destroyed from a wildfire that broke out Saturday afternoon in Kelseyville. Firefighters were called around 3pm on reports of a $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre fire and a structure in flames on 5th Street near Church Street. The Record Bee reports it had started one block west of Main Street and spread to several structures with evacuations called for, although residents were able to return within a few hours after firefighters got it contained. At the same time there was a nearby fire across the street from Hillside Honda in Lakeport which was also contained.

The City of Fort Bragg and Fort Bragg Police have laid out some of the rules for the 4th of July Fireworks Saturday night. Officers will be out on Noyo Beach and the surrounding areas cracking down on illegal fireworks, open fires and public drunkenness. And they remind you Pomo Bluffs Park, Noyo Beach, and Noyo Headlands Trail are considered City parks so you have to follow their rules. As for parking, the Pomo Bluffs parking lot and South Coastal Trail parking lot will be open for vehicles with disabled parking placards but not RV's oversized vehicles or trailers even with disabled plates. Also there is no parking along Ocean View Drive and the various north/south roadways off of it. And when the fireworks are over, they will block off the 100 Blocks of N. Harbor Drive and South Street to stop traffic through there.

Despite the down economy the Community Foundation of Mendocino County says the generosity of the community has allowed them to award nearly \$285,000 in scholarships to 77 students across Mendocino County this month. They say that that amount broke their previous record by awarding more than \$69,000 more in scholarships than last year. Working remotely, Foundation staff, volunteers, and board members evaluated over 200 applications to select the 77 students for the scholarships which range from \$500 to \$20,000 with the average about \$3,000.

The jobless rate keeps inching down for Lake County. The California Employment Development Department says Lake County's preliminary May jobless rate was 6.9%, down from 7.5% in April. This time last year it was as the pandemic started peaking it was 14.2%. EDD says farm-related jobs had a nearly 28% increase from April to May, with wholesale trade jobs up 22% and federal government jobs up 17.6%. There were also increases in Lake County jobs for financial activities, state government and leisure and hospitality. The only job sector down in Lake County from April to May was business and professional services, down 1.4%.

Manzanita Services reopens tomorrow after a year-long closure. They are having a "Grand Re-Opening" at both their Willits and Ukiah locations on Thursday July 1st there they will introduce the public to new executive director LaSara Firefox-Allen who started three months ago. Manzanita Services has been a skeleton crew since the pandemic started with staff working from home to continue providing a large array of mental health services and support with about 30 people serving about 316 clients but starting Thursday their drop in and other services will return. Manzanita Services Willits is located inside the Willits Methodist Church. Manzanita Services Ukiah is at 564 S. Dora Street.

If you have pets, the July 4th weekend can be tough for them if they are afraid of fireworks and a freaked out pet could bolt away from you in the middle of the night. Fort Bragg Police are reminding you to make sure your pets have a collar with tags with your latest contact information and if they are microchipped that information is up to date and also have some current photos of them ready. Also tiring them out earlier in the day can make them more relaxed at night. Police also suggest keeping pets inside for the evening, maybe confined to a crate or a bedroom and turn on the TV or some music to distract them from the noise.

Sheet1

A big chunk of change is coming to Sonoma County thanks to the state's budget surplus. With revenue up by reportedly more than 27% thanks to federal pandemic aid and stimulus money, the state has an extra \$76 billion to dole out as part of the \$262.6 billion budget for next year. Sonoma will reportedly get \$3.5 million toward fire prevention, \$1.7 billion for schools, \$16.5 million to remove the North Coast Rail Authority to build the Great Redwood Trail along the Eel River, \$20 million toward affordable housing, and \$1.1 million to expedite legal cannabis business permitting.