



## Bulldogs Fall Just Short

PAGE 3

## They're Spending Your Money

PAGE 4



# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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**SEE INSIDE**

## HONORING FALLEN HIGHWAY WORKERS



PAGE 12

## 'THANK YOU' FROM GHS CLASS OF 2022



PAGE 3

## LITTLE LEAGUER TO PLAY IN ALL-STATE GAMES



PAGE 2

# Lions Parade through Luther



In full graduation regalia, Seniors from Live Oak High School visit their old alma mater, Luther Elementary School, in a sentimental and inspirational Senior Parade. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - As part of a growing tradition and sentimental gesture, the 2022 graduating Seniors of Live Oak High School held their Senior Parade, returning to the site where, for most, their education began: Luther Elementary School.

According to Luther's Principal, Parveen Baines, this tradition started about 6 years ago and has become a very moving part of the Seniors' graduation process. Not only does it give Luther students the opportunity to celebrate the graduates, but also gives them something to aspire to.

LOHS graduates arrived wearing their purple caps and gowns and stood before a campus full of elementary students holding hand-made signs and gifts as a short introduction and program was held.



Luther Elementary School Students get the opportunity to meet and congratulate Live Oak High School Graduates during the 2022 Senior Parade. Photo by Seti Long

Principal Baines said, "I am beyond excited to have this amazing event back this year. This event is something that we look forward to every year, and we do so because we get to

honor you (Seniors). You have reached a great milestone in your life, and every educator here is deeply touched to have been a part of your journey and looks forward to celebrating your success through this tradition." She continued, "Today, we are so proud to see you stand before us in your caps and gowns as Live Oak Lions. You are why we do what we do."

This year's parade would be a very special one for Principal Baines as her youngest child was a member of the LOHS graduating Class of 2022 visiting the school.

As graduates paraded around the perimeter of the school's basketball courts, high-fives, hugs, smiles and even tears could be seen as the graduates made their way around to each child. Not only was it truly a memorable moment for the graduates

*Continued on page 3*

## New Wine, Spirits Bottle Recycling Bill Clears

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Senate voted on May 25, 2022, unanimously to approve legislation written by Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, D-San Diego, and co-written by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, to add wine and distilled spirits bottles to California's recycling program.

"I am really pleased that so many of our Senate colleagues recognized the importance of this common sense bill that benefits our environment and consumers," Sen. Dodd said. "With SB 1013 we can increase the recycling rates of millions of bottles that would otherwise wind up in our landfills or be illegally discarded. I look forward to seeing this bill with all its benefits for California pass the Assembly and be signed by Gov. Newsom."

"SB 1013 is historic change that is 40 years in the making," Pro Tem Atkins said. "I want to commend the wine industry, distilled spirits industry, environmental advocates, and other groups who have come together to support this landmark proposal. We will continue working with stakeholders as the bill moves through the Assembly to make sure remaining concerns are addressed, and then, hopefully, 2022 will be the year we can pop a cork and celebrate this overdue improvement to California's recycling law."

The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, established in 1986, encourages consumers to recycle beverage containers by requiring them to pay a deposit for eligible bottles. According to a 2019 report, curbside programs received approximately \$172 million from the so-called Bottle Bill in 2017, including \$15 million that is annually provided from the Beverage Container Recycling Fund.

Although the program includes beer, it does not include wine or spirits. It is estimated that California generates more than 500 million wine and spirits bottles each year, with less than 30% being recycled and over 300 million wine and spirits bottles going into landfills. Under Senate Bill 1013, wine and spirits bottles would be added to the program, leading to more recycling, increased business for recycling centers and reduced processing costs.

*Continued on page 2*

# Quota Honors Top Students

By Barbara Ott

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley Quota held their annual Graduating Honor Students' Luncheon for Gridley, Biggs and Live Oak High Schools. All of the students invited held a minimum GPA of 3.83. These students proudly represented their high schools. There were 14 Live Oak students, 11 Gridley students and 2 Biggs students enjoying the Quota lunch of hamburgers, veggies and watermelon with ice cream and brownies for dessert.

Jan Meyers, President of Quota for 2022, emphasized her theme, "Try to be a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud,"—a quote by Maya Angelou.

Meyers showed solidarity with the students by having Quota members say where and when they graduated high school. A game



Quota Scholarship winners proudly represented Gridley and Live Oak high schools. Photo by Barbara Ott

that included a story about many teachers with the name of Wright did a lot of left turns, while students passed gift cards to the left or right. Each table had a big winner of \$25.

Quota used some of their earnings from their thrift store on Spruce

Street to give out \$11,500 in scholarships this year. Several of the students present were recipients of \$750.00 scholarships. The announcements are being presented at each school's awards night. There are 8 Gridley recipients with two of these being Legacy

scholars with \$250.00 each. Legacy scholars are the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Quota members. Four scholarships went to Live Oak students and two went to Biggs students. Quota's purpose is to help girls, boys and women. ★

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# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Are you interested in supporting the local economy? Tic Tac Freshmints candy has in the top ten of its ingredients - rice starch. I will assist the prune industry by not publishing the places prunes are included in the ingredients. We seem to do better at getting the prunes we need in

our diet by not announcing where they are included.

\*\*\*  
The Silver Dollar Fair hosted a Rodeo with a cadre of the angriest, most murderous, and malicious bulls and bucking broncos ever assembled in one arena from the Rocking M Ranch (M for Murder). On the second night of the rodeo, no cowboy even completed a ride in front of the capacity crowd on a bull, and only two brave souls completed the 8-second ride on a bucking horse. Not to say it was not exciting for those of us who attended. Two cowboys were hauled off by the ambulance service, and more than once, the rodeo clown had a direct confrontation with a bull.

It was one of the wildest rodeos I've ever seen. I actually checked a couple of times to make sure the fence between the wild beasts and us was strong enough. Earlier this month, at the Redding Rodeo, one of the angry creatures jumped the fence and ran down six spectators. Glad to report that Brook Mardesich was there to watch her boy Davis win the entire event outright. He did Gridley proud, made some money, and advances in the standings. The kid looks like a Brothers' family member but rodeos like his dad Jeffrey.

\*\*\*  
Josh F.W. Cook writes exclusively for the Gridley Herald. ★

# Local Little Leaguer to Play in All-State Games

By Mike Buck



Biggs native Dennis Dewhurst will be playing in the 2nd Annual All-State Games held in Perris, California, from August 13-15. Photo courtesy of Mike Buck

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - 12-year-old Dennis Dewhurst, a 7th grader from Biggs, has been selected by the national recruiting service, Perfect Game USA, after his outstanding play for the Chico Aces 12/U team.

Dewhurst has been selected to play at the 2nd Annual All-State Games played in Perris, California, from August 13-15, with a chance to make the All-California team and compete in Georgia this November in the national tournament.

Dewhurst would like to thank the Chico Aces owner Lance Franks, his teammates, his coaching staff Billy Hack and Kyle Shanoff and pitching coach Eric Losche. Not to mention the hitting instructors who work tirelessly with the boys. I would strongly recommend any youngsters out there to sign up with the Aces if you want to improve your game. ★

# Thank You!

By VFW Post 5731

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley VFW Post 5731 extends grateful thanks to Starbucks, Grocery Outlet and Mac's Market for supporting our

veterans on Armed Forces Day. Additionally, the Post extends a special Thank You to James Jurkewicz, USMC, for the use of his Deuce-and-a-half that carried veterans in our Red Suspenders Day Parade. ★

By Gridley Museum

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley Museum would like to thank and recognize the following organizations and individuals that helped us with our annual fundraiser and purchased tickets to the Tri-Tip Dinner on Red Suspenders Day: Gridley Rotary Club; Catalina Sanchez, Jessica Flatt and Mike McMillan; Gridley Lions Club; Quota Club, Marie Wheeler; Knights of Columbus, Javier

Solis, for his expertise and use of his cooker, Pedro Mota, head Chef, Daniel Villalobos, and other Knight members; Museum volunteers, Tyrone Shaeffer, Willa Samprucci, Pat Teague, Pauline Abbott, Terry Kendrick, Lisa Van De Hey, Greg Hughbanks and his friend Brenda, Sharon Pantaleoni and Bob Trueax. Without all of this help our dinner could not have happened. ★

Again, Thank you!

# Wine, Spirits Bottle Recycling Bill Clears

Continued from page 1

The expansion would also cut greenhouse gas emissions by almost 200,000 tons of carbon dioxide while reducing litter of wine and spirits containers, a visible and dangerous component of urban litter pollution.

SB1013 is supported by a number of groups including Californians Against Waste, Heal the Bay, California Association of Local Conservation Corps, Monterey Regional Waste Management District, National Stewardship Action Council, Northern

California Recycling Association, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, The 5 Gyres Institute, the Plastic Pollution Coalition and Zero Waste USA. It has no formal opposition.

It passed the Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support. It heads next to the Assembly.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at [www.sen.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.sen.ca.gov/dodd). ★

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# Bulldogs Fall Just Short in Division 3 Title Game



The Gridley High School varsity baseball team poses together for a picture. Photo courtesy of Josh Sannar

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley High School varsity baseball team fell just short in its improbable run to the Division III Baseball Super Regional NSCIF Championship, losing to Sutter 5-1 on May 21 in the title game.

The Bulldogs (21-10, 7-5 Butte View League) were given the No. 5 seed and had to play their way in to the playoffs, beginning with a game against No. 4 West Valley (14-11, 8-2 Northern) of Cottonwood on May 10. Gridley was victorious 10-4 over the Eagles. The Bulldogs scored six runs in the first five innings with two in the first, one in the third and three in the fifth to get out to a commanding 6-0 lead.

West Valley attempted to mount a comeback with four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to trim the Eagles' deficit to two. Gridley erased all the momentum gained by West Valley with four runs of their own in the top of the seventh to all but put the game away. The Eagles did not respond in the bottom half of the inning and lost 10-4.

The Bulldogs tallied 13 total hits. Two Gridley hitters, senior pitcher Aden Brothers and junior outfielder Michael J Ryan, had perfect days at the plate in five appearances. Brothers recorded three hits (one double), two runs batted in, one walk and one sacrifice bunt. Ryan tallied three hits (one double and one home run), three runs scored, three stolen bases, two RBI and two walks.

Brothers also had a strong day on the mound and earned the win. The senior tossed a complete game pitching seven innings, allowing seven hits, four runs (one earned), one stolen bag and one free pass with seven strikeouts on 104 pitches.

Gridley's next opponent was a familiar foe and its toughest test yet, the No. 1 seed Sutter Huskies (25-7-1, 10-2) who won the BVL. The Bulldogs and Huskies met twice in the regular season, splitting a home and home series. Both teams were victorious on the road as Sutter won 7-0 on March 29 and the Bulldogs prevailed 9-7 three days later, handing the Huskies their second league loss of the season and first in regulation.

Sutter hosted the playoff battle with Gridley on May 13. The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard first, plating two runs in the top of the second inning. The Huskies responded with one run in the bottom of the second and one in the third to even the game at two. Gridley then matched Sutter, scoring one run in the top of the fourth and one in the fifth inning to reclaim a two-run lead at 4-2.

The Bulldogs sealed the Huskies' fate in the top of the seventh inning, scoring six runs to take an eight-run lead at 10-2. Sutter scored one run in the bottom half of the inning and lost 10-3 to the underdogs from Gridley. The Bulldogs narrowly outhit the Huskies 10-8 but made each one count.

Ryan nearly beat Sutter by himself with one swing of the bat in the top of the seventh hitting a grand slam. The junior racked up four RBI, two hits, one run and one walk in five plate appearances. Senior second baseman Alejandro Santillan had himself a day at the plate, recording three hits, three

RBI, two runs and one hit by pitch.

Freshman pitcher Garrett Francis earned the win for Gridley by pitching six innings, allowing four hits, two runs (zero earned), two stolen bases, two HBP and one walk with four Ks on 85 pitches. Jagger Beck took the loss for Sutter. The sophomore pitcher tossed 3.2 innings and allowed five hits, two runs (one earned) and one stolen bag with four punchouts on 50 pitches.

The Bulldogs moved on to the next round of the postseason and faced No. 2 Lassen (17-12, 9-1 Northern) of Susanville in a neutral site game played at Sutter on May 17. Despite being the lower seed, Gridley played as the home team. The Bulldogs scored first with two runs in the bottom of the first and one more in the second to jump out to a 3-0 lead.

The Grizzlies trimmed their deficit to a single run after plating two runs in the top of the fourth. Gridley put the game out of reach by scoring three runs in the fifth and one in the sixth. Lassen scored twice in the top of the seventh but fell short, losing 7-4 to the Bulldogs.

Brothers hit a two-run double and senior catcher Cash Mills hit a two-run homer in the win. Brothers earned another win on the mound, this time pitching six innings and allowing three hits, two runs (one earned), two walks, two HBP and one stolen base with two strikeouts.

In the championship game played at Butte College on May 21, Gridley had to face a team it had already beaten in its playoff run, Sutter, who advanced to the title game through the losers bracket after being upset by the Bulldogs. The Huskies played as the road team in the rematch and didn't take long to get on the board.

Sutter scored two runs in the top of the second, one in the third, one in the fifth and one in the sixth to take a 5-0 lead after five and a half innings. The Bulldogs were able to scratch one run across the plate in the bottom of the sixth but that would be all they would get all game. Sutter would ultimately win 5-1, avenging its loss to Gridley from eight days prior, and winning the D3 Baseball Super Regional NSCIF Championship.

Senior outfielder Kaleb Davis tallied the Bulldogs' only hit in the game with a double while adding one walk. Junior outfielder Aiden Gomez recorded the team's only RBI on a sacrifice fly in the sixth to score fellow junior outfielder Andrew Engelmann.

Senior pitcher Connor Babler earned the victory on the bump for the Huskies by pitching five shutout innings, allowing five walks, three stolen bases, one hit and one HBP with three Ks on 85 pitches. Francis suffered the loss for Gridley. The freshman pitched three innings and gave up four hits, three earned runs and one walk with three punchouts on 55 pitches.

Sutter's season came to an end Tuesday, May 31 in the 2022 CIF Division III NorCal Baseball Championships. The Huskies were given the No. 6 seed and played No. 3 seed Rio Americano in a neutral site game played at Jesuit. The Raiders defeated the Huskies 15-5. ★

# Lions Parade through Luther

Continued from page 1  
to reminisce about their educational journey, but it was also an inspiring moment for the youngsters to see what they could accomplish if they applied themselves to their education.

The Luther School Choir prepared a musical tribute to the Seniors, after which administrators opened it up to the graduates. Each graduate got the opportunity to address the students at Luther School, sharing where they planned to go to school after commencement and/or what their career choices were. Some made shout outs to younger siblings attending Luther or teachers that made impacts on their lives.

Principal Baines would say, "Hold onto your grit, your courage, and your perseverance. Hold onto the great pride you sense in all of us today and keep that with you and in your hearts. And please accept our sincerest congratulations. Congratulations Class of 2022!" ★



Students gathered on the Luther School's black-top for a program celebrating the graduating Live Oak High School Class of 2022 during the LOHS Senior Parade. Students created signs and gifts wishing the graduates luck and congratulating them on their upcoming graduation. Photo by Seti Long



Students from Luther Elementary School create hand-made signs, notes and gifts to give to visiting Live Oak High School Graduating Seniors during their Senior Parade. Photo by Seti Long

# 'Thank You' from GHS Class of 2022



Gridley High School Graduating Class of 2022 says, 'Thank You,' to all who helped make Sober Grad Night 2022 a possibility! Photo submitted by Heather Platter

## GHS Sober Grad Committee

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Sober Grad committee and the class of 2022 would like to thank everyone who supported our

sober grad fundraising events throughout this last year. Thank you to all who donated to our event. We look forward to our Sober grad night and all the surprises to come! ★

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# They're Spending Your Money



"Simply without precedent." California's \$100 billion surplus: What to know about Newsom's spending plan. California State Capitol © Andreistancescu | Dreamstime.com



Gov. Gavin Newsom

By Ben Christopher,  
CALMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom is a man of many superlatives, but even he seemed to struggle to adequately describe just how much extra cash the state of California will have to spend in the coming year's budget: \$97.5 billion.

Speaking for more than two hours in a press conference in Sacramento, Newsom unveiled his latest record spending proposal for the coming fiscal year. Riding a superheating economy and drawing disproportionately from the state's highest earners, the state is now projected to have a surplus bigger than California – or any state – has ever had, and significantly more than the \$76 billion that the governor predicted in January.

Roughly half of the surplus is required by law to be spent on education. That leaves "only" roughly \$49 billion in discretionary money, and the governor wants to reserve 99% of that for one-time spending: \$18.1 billion to provide financial relief for Californians buffeted by inflation, plus \$37 billion for infrastructure investments, including \$5.6 billion for education facility upgrades, and an extra \$2.3 billion for the ongoing fight against COVID-19.

A few of the other big numbers that Newsom mentioned: \$128.3 billion in education spending, from transitional kindergarten through high school, a record-breaking sum that works out to \$22,850 per student; Another \$23 billion will be parked into the state's rainy day fund, to be drawn upon the next time the economy slows; \$2.5 billion for housing, including \$500 million to fund the conversion of vacant malls and storefronts into homes; An extra \$3.4 billion to pay down state employee retirement debt.

The massive windfall that the state is sitting on, coupled with the state's progressive tax system is a sign of "the concentration of wealth and success in the hands of a few that are enjoying abundance in historic and unprecedented ways," Newsom said. "I am proud of California's progressive tax system...and we're the beneficiary of that."

Now the ball is in the state Legislature's court as key lawmakers in the Assembly and the state Senate decide where they agree with the governor and which priorities they want to haggle over before the June 15 deadline to pass a final, balanced budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

The "May revise" rollout is part of the annual call-and-response between the governor's office and the Legislature over how to spend your tax dollars. Each year, the governor sets the negotiations in motion in January with a preliminary budget proposal. This year, Newsom's proffer included a record surge in K-12 education spending, along with multi-billion dollar proposals to ramp up the state's wildfire prevention projects, convert more vacant hotels into housing for the homeless and open up Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance program for the poor, to all

undocumented immigrants.

What a difference two years makes. In May 2020, with the state still weathering the first surge of COVID-19, the governor's Department of Finance projected a \$54 billion deficit and a year of Great Depression-level unemployment rates. Neither came to pass, just the opposite: Boosted by rosy economic conditions for the state's highest earners and a massive influx of cash from the federal government, state coffers have been overflowing for the last two years.

Still, Newsom and the Legislature's budget staff add a note of caution: The war in Ukraine, rising inflation and higher interest rates are increasing uncertainty. And capital gains as a percentage of personal income is the highest since 1999, just before the dot.com bust. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office also warned that a recession may be on the horizon within two years, and urged the governor and Legislature to add to reserves.

The Republican minority in the Legislature is so diminished that Democrats don't need their support to pass a budget. But that isn't stopping GOP lawmakers from weighing in, if only to provide voters with a clear contrast as Election Day approaches.

"Newsom specializes in grand announcements and flashy sounding proposals, but he rarely follows through with effective solutions that actually help California families," GOP Assembly leader James Gallagher from Chico said in a statement. "The Governor may not want to acknowledge it, but California is in crisis and his budget is unsustainable."

If the average Californian hears anything about the announcement it's probably this: The governor wants to

send \$400 to most of the state's car owners.

That's been the governor's idea to help drivers bear the cost of historically elevated gas prices. In the face of pushback from environmentalists, he also wants to throw in \$750 million to entice transit agencies to make bus and rail travel free for three months. And lest he be accused of throwing money at those who don't need it, the proposal is limited to drivers whose cars are worth under an as-yet unspecified cap.

Despite all that, there's some distance between this proposal and the Legislature's, where Democratic leaders want to send cash rebates to Californians making less than \$250,000, car owners or not. And it's even further still from the GOP plan, which is simply to suspend the state gas tax.

"I have all the confidence in the world we'll be able to square those modest differences and we'll come around to a number and a strategy that's in the best interests of Californians," Newsom said.

For his part, Newsom pointed out his gas rebate proposal includes \$750 million to encourage free public transportation for three months. It also includes \$2.7 billion to pay rental assistance to residents who had applied before March 31 (covering claims that the original federal funding did not), and \$1.4 billion in utility assistance.

The announcement also answered another big question left unaddressed by the January proposal: Will an obscure amendment inserted into the California Constitution in 1979 compel the state to reroute some of the state's extra cash back to taxpayers?

The answer, at least for now, appears to be no.

The constitutional provision in question, the Gann Limit, was approved by voters during

the heyday of the state's conservative "tax revolt" and capped per-person state spending to its 1978 level, after adjusting for inflation. Anything left over has to be sent back to taxpayers and school districts. With the state's coffers as full as they are, the January budget blueprint projected that the state would breach the cap.

But with more spending on exempt types of expenditure, including infrastructure, the current plan is now \$2.6 billion below that ceiling. Newsom noted that he would support a proposal to put an amendment to voters to tweak or perhaps outright eliminate the Gann Limit, which he said is "long overdue."

Following a years-long trend, the governor also hints at the possibility of shuttering more state prisons. Though the state prison population has ticked up slightly since the early days of the pandemic, it still sits at a decade-long trough and is expected to continue trending down. The budget proposal notes that the state may be able to "close three additional state prisons by 2024-25."

With the state bracing for yet another season of extreme heat, wildfire and drought, Newsom's revised budget includes an additional \$8 billion to increase the reliability of the state's power grid and hasten the development of clean energy projects.

Echoing his Republican challengers in the unsuccessful effort last year to remove him from office, Newsom cast some blame for the housing crisis on the state's premier environmental law – but proposed little in the way of change. Instead, he said he signed 17 CEQA reform bills and looks forward to working with legislators on more proposals that provide more certainty and more predictability to address housing affordability issues. ★

MEMORIAL

## WALTER RAY ROBINSON

8/29/1931 – 5/16/2022

Walter Ray Robinson lifelong resident of Gridley passed away peacefully on May 16, 2022. He was born on August 29, 1931 to William H. Robinson and Amy A. Robinson in Gridley CA. He was the youngest of five children. He grew up on the farm located on Hwy 99 and attended Gridley schools. He served in the Korean War earning the rank of Sgt. He returned home and married the love of his life Margene Terry in 1954. They started their family in 1955 with their son Gary Ray who sadly passed away one year later. In 1958 they welcomed their first daughter Janet and then daughter Sharon in 1961. His love of family, farming, fishing, and having fun kept him going for 90 years. Ray is survived by his wife Margene of 68 years; two daughters: Janet Elrod (Kevin), Sharon Pequette (David); four grandchildren: Josh Elrod (Tara), Sara Caldwell (Nick), Michael Pequette (Amy), and Jenna Moffitt (Blain); seven great-grandchildren: Parker, Wyatt, Weston, Easton, Lane, Rhett and Peyton.

MEMORIAL


## DONNA RAE LEWIS • 7/15/1937 – 4/21/22

Donna passed away at the age of 84 on Thursday April 21st in Oroville California. Her services will be held on June 6, 2022 at 2:00PM at Gridley Biggs Cemetery, 2023 Highway 99 Gridley California. Interment to follow. Donna was the beloved mother of Curtis Huff, Rodney Huff and Vicki Miller (Huff), Stepmother to Donald Gene Lewis Jr. and Tanya Booth (Lewis). Sister to Robert Runge and Sister-in-law to Russel Lewis. She had numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Preceded in death by her loving husband and soulmate Donald Gene Lewis Sr., her parents Herman and Ruth Runge and her brother Marlan Runge. Donna was a devoted mother, grandmother and friend to all who knew her. She will always be in our memories and hearts. We will all miss her smile and loving hugs. Arrangements entrusted to Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel.

MEMORIAL

## SUSAN CAMERON


Susan Cameron, 75, of Biggs, Ca returned to her Savior on May 20, 2022. She is survived by her husband, Bruce, their 3 daughters, Lynette, Amanda, Kerri, 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. She taught at Poplar Avenue in Oroville for several years and was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Services will be held at the LDS Church on June 10th, 2022 at 11am. 400 Spruce Street, Gridley, Ca. Arrangements entrusted to Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel.



MEMORIAL

## MELINDA BOEGER • 7/13/1947 – 5/27/2022

Melinda was born July 13, 1947, in San Jose, California. She was the third of four children born to Edward and Evelyn Boeger. Melinda grew up in Gridley and graduated from Gridley High School in 1965. She then attended Chico State and graduated with a BA degree in Psychology, with honors. She lived briefly in Washington State and then in Chico, until she moved back to Gridley in 1988 when her son Jason was born. Melinda enjoyed reading, watching western movies, listening to music, embroidery, and spending time with her family. She had a clever wit about her. Her son Jason was a bright light in her life. She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her son, Jason Davey (Chelsea) and two grandsons, Kai and Rome, who live in St. George Utah. She is also survived by her brother, Michael Boeger (Sandi) of Gridley, sister Karen Jaeger of Gold River, sister Susan Bernard (Darryl) of Gridley, and numerous nieces and nephews. Melinda was a loving mother and a kind person, and she will be greatly missed. A private family service was held on June 2nd at the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery.



MEMORIAL

## STEPHEN C. MYERS • 8/2/1953 – 4/23/2022

Stephen "Steve" Myers passed away on April 23, 2022 at the age of 68, in his home in Gridley, California after a courageous battle with cancer. He left this world surrounded by his loving family. Steve was born on Aug 2, 1953. Son of Phyllis and John Myers. He had a passion for many things and excelled at everything he did. He was a avid reader and a speed reader at that. Served in the Airforce for 4 years and then went on to work for the U.S. Forestry for 29 years where he retired as the manager of the ECC in Quincy, Calif. He made Gridley his home soon after retirement to be closer to family and friends. He had a passion for computer technology spent many hours working on assembling, repairing and even opened his own computer business in Quincy, Calif. (ComputerWorks) and then eventually creating webpage designs. He created Wildlandfire.com after retirement to continue to support the Wildland Fire community he loved. His passion for Ancestry began in the later years of his life. Beginning with immediate families and went on to become a member of Search Angels to help others find family members. Steve is survived by his wife Stephanie (27 years) of Gridley, Ca. Daughter Kathy Horan (Shawn) of Lincoln, Ca. Grandson's Riley (Taylor) of New York and Conlin Horan (Lincoln) they were loved by their grandpa much and he was always excited to hear of each new adventure in their life. He will be missed greatly by all that loved him and all he helped throughout his life.

MEMORIAL

## AGNES MCDONELL

A service for Agnes Ann McDonell, 88, of Biggs, California will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the First Baptist Church of Gridley. Agnes passed away on Monday May 16, 2022 at Orchard Hospital in Gridley. She was born in Paradise on November 6, 1933 to Harold R. Pearce and Gladys Reynolds Pearce. Agnes was preceded in death by her husband Pat of 58 years of marriage, her parents and her brother, Howard Pearce. She is survived by her sister Evelyn Strachan of Oroville, her sister Gloria Rhoads of Wheaton, Illinois, her sister-in-law Marilyn Sparks of Sacramento, her son, Michael McDonell of Biggs, daughter, Sharen Lindberg of Biggs, grandchildren, Kelly (Drew) Doughtie of Biggs, Tom (Jessica) McDonell of Oroville, Christopher (Stephany) McDonell of Biggs, Annarose Mitchell of Santa Barbara, Arthur Lindberg of Oroville, six great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She will be missed by her family and many friends.



**'There's a Perfect Storm Brewing,' Farm Bureau President Warns in D.C. Visit**

California Farm Bureau leaders met with members of Congress and key officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies in Washington, D.C., this month. The meetings took place as California agriculture faces severe challenges from drought and water shortages, surging fertilizer prices and supply chain disruptions stranding farm exports. "There's a perfect storm brewing that could pretty traumatically affect our food supply," warned Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson.

**Blueberry Yield Plummets After Weather-related Damage**

California blueberry growers are picking a smaller crop this year after losing fruit to spring frost and hail. The California Blueberry Commission estimates that farms will produce 55 million pounds of fresh berries this year. That's down from an original projection of 65 million pounds and nearly 20 million pounds less than the 2021 crop total. The drop comes after farmers in parts of Northern and Central California suffered crop damage in a spring freeze.




**California Almond Harvest May Fall by 4%, According to Forecast**

California's 2022 almond harvest is expected to drop by 4% compared to 2021. That's according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The agency's subjective forecast estimates that California will harvest 2.8 billion pounds of almonds this year, down from last year's yield of 2.92 billion pounds. The average yield per acre is expected to drop by 8%, falling from 2,210 pounds per acre to 2,040.

**Cattle Ranchers Partner with Conservationists to Protect Rangelands**

California cattle ranchers and conservationists are partnering to preserve open space, while also protecting grazing for livestock. Since 2001, 280,000 acres of working ranch landscapes have been lost to development, such as subdivisions and shopping centers. But some 80 California ranches have reached agreements with a conservation group, the California Rangeland Trust, to permanently protect another 365,000 acres of working lands. ★

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# Gridley Thumbs and Roots

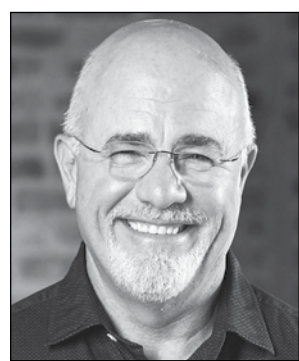


By Barbara Ott

Snail slime has been spotted! At first there was a shiny slime trail, then there were five. In the early morning sun, the sparkling dots of slime are obvious. If I didn't get up early, I'd never see them because they cannot be seen in full light. This seems like a fairly tricky thing for snails to do...have

disappearing slime trails. They were taking advantage of a large patch of sweet peas, nice and cool with lots of shade. Snails like it chill. Sometimes I envision them with their sunglasses and flip-flops on, cooling it in the shade. They had a rude surprise when the heat made the sweet peas start to look rangy and dry so, I pulled the sweet peas out. That's when the early morning slime trails multiplied. They were forced to move out. You and I know they moved to another part of the yard. Probably under the large planter pots with the alstroemeria blooming beautifully. If they keep their nefarious ways on the down low, I won't bug them. If they start a rampage through my plants

there will be blood, or at least slime. I do have to address the snail colony in the front yard. They are decimating my big chartreuse Hosta. As I've stated before Hostas are like crack for snails. The full metal jacket war will happen there with poison and everything. I already have about an inch of crushed egg shells there. That works quite well but usually needs a top dressing of Corry pellets. If I were a kinder person, I wouldn't have such tantalizing plants for the little slimmers. I love Hostas so, I haven't given them up. Consequently, the battlelines are set. My efforts of snail eradication did not totally work but their numbers went from millions to hundreds, I'm sure. ★



I'm Not Doing That

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are empty nesters, and our house is too big for just the two of us now. We talked about selling the house and moving into an apartment in a multi-use development with retail and restaurants that we go to several times a week. Then, in a year or so, buying a smaller house when housing prices go back down. How do you feel about this idea?

– Ephram

Dear Ephram,

I like the idea of downsizing. My wife and I did the same kind of thing recently. But at this point,

## Dave Ramsey Says

I'd say there's about a 99% chance the housing market is not going down. It has gone down two times in the last 100 years – way back during the 1930s and again in 2008. And the market snapped back fairly fast after 2008.

I don't think the price of housing is going to go down at all anytime soon. I do believe the housing market's rate of increase will slow down, but that still kind of defeats your premise of renting until then. I wouldn't be opposed to you two buying a different property in the same area and just moving in, but I'm not going to tell you to go rent something right now. That would put you in a hole with the rental amount, plus the fact that housing prices are probably going to continue to rise, even if not at the pace they've risen recently.

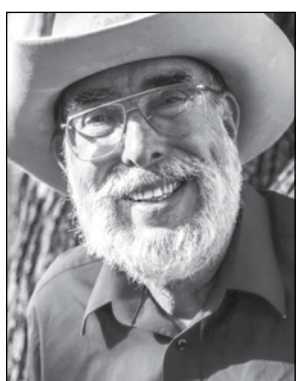
In other words, if you

rent, you're going to lose money two different ways – with the rental amount and home prices continuing to increase. Buying high and selling high isn't such a big deal. But buying high, and later buying higher after renting? No, I'm not doing that.

– Dave

*Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.* ★

## Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

"Now Mamie," said Windy Wilson, "the reason I expurgated myself over here to your place was to see how you was a-doin' in this year heat."

Mamie Dilworth refilled his iced tea glass, smiled at the old cowboy and camp cook. "Well, that's awfully nice of you, Windy. I'm fine. Tired of this heat, just the same as everyone

else around here."

"I hear ya, and thanks for the tea. It helps a guy cool down, refrigerationally speakin' a-course."

"You're welcome. What are you and Ramses up to these hot days?"

Ramses was Windy's dog, so named because of his tendency to leave pyramids in the backyard. Windy claims he's an Egyptian shepherd, but hasn't been able to provide any registration papers yet.

"Pickup truck therapy, you know. Works put-near ever time it's tried. Long's

a guy don't run outa gas, he's okay. Cool right down on a hot ol' day like this one."

"I didn't know your pickup had air conditioning, Windy."

"Mostly it's a cowboy 260 air conditioner," Windy explained. "You get your shirt and your dog wet, roll down two windows and go sixty miles an hour."

*Pick up "Home Country: Drama, dreams and laughter from the American heartland" www.lpdpress.com.* ★



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## The Stable Coin Blow Up

After nine straight weeks of a bitcoin decline, now the experiment that combined math and software to get a digital currency to behave like a U.S. dollar crashed in dramatic fashion, posing the biggest threat yet to develop a decentralized cyber currency.

TerraUSD, or "UST", is another in a long line of attempted cyber currencies, called "cyber coins", the most celebrated of which is Bitcoin.

TerraUSD, was called a stable coin, which, unlike its thousands of counterparts which include bitcoin, was developed to provide a "stable" valued vehicle in the cyber coin universe. Investors in cyber tokens know of the wild swings that cyber coins can have. Terra was an attempt to provide a coin that would retain its value at par, which is to say, remain worth one U.S. dollar at all times.

TerraUSD, an "algorithmic stable coin", uses a variety of methodologies and incentives in an attempt to maintain its peg of one-to-one to the dollar. It strives to accomplish this by working with a crypto token in the same ecosystem. That token, called Luna, can be swapped for Terra and vice versa.

This back and forth swapping by traders supposedly keeps the price of a Terra where it should be, which is walking in lockstep with the U.S. dollar.

The thinking around developing a stable vehicle was to enable crypto traders to make transactions in differing cyber coins easily and quickly without needing to leave the digital asset universe. It also was thought to alleviate intermediaries and the concerns the value of various coins would fluctuate when trades or swaps were executed.

If it all sounds a little gobbydegookish, it's not you. I have found unless one is a full on member of the computer geek squad, the world of cyber coin will be more than a bit confusing.

Even for experienced Wall Street alumni like myself, although millions of people trade and write about the world of cyber coin, there is much we plain folks don't understand about exactly what is going on in the cyber coin universe.

A month ago, the future looked bright for TerraUSD. Until last Monday, when all of the mechanisms that were supposed to keep TerraUSD stable, were anything but stable.

TerraUSD fell to a low of 60 cents on that day, and reached a further low of around 20 cents in another crash on Wednesday. At the time of this writing, it sits a two cents.

(June 29, 2022-<https://www.coindesk.com/price/terrausd/>)

Pretty rocky stuff for a coin called "stable." ★

The event took down the market cap of TerraUSD from \$18.4 billion to essentially zero. The Luna "backbone token" also avalanched.

Nikita Fadeev, head of crypto fund Fasanara Digital, which de-risked its position in advance of the crash, said: "Everything broke. It is full capitulation."

Exactly why all of the so called "stable" UST mechanisms failed remains unclear. Conspiracy theories abound as to what happened, but in this analyst opinion, when vast amounts of monies are floating around in cyberspace, this whole fiasco comes as no surprise. Once again, many lost everything while others walked away very rich. Nothing new in the world of cyber coin.

I know there are a lot smarter people than me when it comes to the net and the cyber coin playground. As a result, it's no place I want to put my hard earned money, and I doubt the average Joe Shmoe should be doing it either.

The move is on to provide more backing to TerraUSD to once again stabilize its value, with figures around the 1.5 billion being tossed about. But since none of this is government backed, I view the entire cyber coin universe and its multiple trading platforms to access it, one big Wild West show. There are landmines everywhere, it rife with amateurs and novice traders, and its run by techno wizards of unknown repute.

The whole thing, at least to me, reminds me of a three ring circus, complete with the "3 Card Monty" con game, where everybody that plays never seems to win, at least for long.

With the latest collapse of the cyber token called "stable coin", I can say it comes as no surprise. What is ironic is that what was supposed to be the epitome of why people flock to the bitcoin game, which is autonomous stability and safety, failed miserably in both respects.

Concluding, if some people still elect to play in the cyber coin universe after this collapse, it will be one of most baffling investor decisions I have ever seen.

*"Watching the markets so you don't have to"*

*This article expresses the opinion of Marc Cuniberti and is not meant as investment advice, nor represents the opinion of any bank, investment firm or RIA, nor this media outlet, its staff, members or underwriters. Mr. Cuniberti holds a B.A. in Economics with honors, 1979, SDSU, and California Insurance License #0L34249. His website is [moneymanagementradio.com](http://moneymanagementradio.com), and was recently voted Best Financial Advisor in Nevada County. 530-559-1214* ★

## Thoughts to Ponder

by Kathy Neal

We are promised "a new walk in the garden" by God. From creation had created a place for His creations (animal and human) to able to walk, talk and see the Heavenly Father. But due to sinful disobedience, the human race lost that privilege.

Now thousands of years later, through many events and promises, God has given a second, third, fourth, etc. chance to walk the garden with Him. He has promised, through the woman who gave birth to a child who crushed death and defeated it, to live in a Holy City occupied by God himself.

No more tears! Praise God! No more death! Praise God! No more mourning, pain, or fear! Praise God! His Son conquered the evil We Light of the World.

When John wrote Revelation, he heard Christ say, "It's done." Echoing His words from the cross, "It is finished." Christ won the battle, and we became victors in Him.

We will experience the earthly physical death, but, through Christ we will

not experience the eternal death. We are forgiven and given mercy by a loving God to able to walk again, side by side, with the Creator.

In the first Garden, man had it all, food, beautiful foliage, animals to care for, clear water, clean sky, and a personal walk daily with God. What a wonderful image of man now able walk the streets of the new Jerusalem and meeting with Him, the Great I Am.

How do we achieve this greatness? Simply by believing and acknowledging God, His Son our Savior, and the Holy Spirit.

Belief is the great change, faith in the promises of God and what His Son did to give us another, "walk in the garden, it is done."

*Come worship with the Gridley United Methodist as we lift our voices in prayer to God. We are located at 285 Magnolia Street. The rest of May we meet at 10 am. Starting the first Sunday in June we will meet at 9:30 am for the rest of the summer.* ★



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# Dear Dietitian

## Fish Allergies



Commentary by **Leanne McCrate**

Dear Dietitian,

I read your response about the nutritional value of canned salmon and thought it was informative. I'm allergic to fresh fish, but I can eat crab, scallops, shrimp, and canned salmon without any reactions such as blisters, throat tingling, and sneezing. I've always been able to eat canned tuna without reaction, but fresh fish will cause lip swelling, eye-watering, and hives.

My questions are: How much canned salmon is too much in a week? Is there a risk? Is there a limit? Is it more nutritious in a salad, baked, or fried? What other foods contain omega 3-fatty acids?

Thanks, Gretchen

Dear Gretchen,

Fish and seafood are great choices for a healthy diet. Oily fish such as salmon, mackerel, rainbow trout, and tuna are excellent sources of omega-3 fatty acids. Scientists are studying the effects of omega-3s in preventing heart disease and stroke.

Most of the studies that link omega-3s to heart health and stroke prevention are EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid). Another omega-3 is ALA (alpha-linolenic acid). Small amounts of ALA (2-5%) can be converted to DHA and EPA. ALA is found in plant foods, like flax seeds, edamame, chia seeds, tofu, and plant oils.

As many as 2.6 million Americans are allergic to finfish. Symptoms include hives and swelling of the lips, tongue, face, or throat. The most serious allergic reaction is anaphylaxis, which may result in death.

Although these reactions can be severe and even life-threatening, it has been reported that patients with fish allergies "appear to be able to safely eat canned tuna because of a loss of allergenicity in processing." (1)

It is not uncommon to be allergic to finfish (tuna, halibut, salmon, etc.) but not shellfish (shrimp, crab, lobster, etc.), and vice versa. It is also possible to be allergic to certain types of finfish but not others. To explore specific allergies, consult an allergist, a medical doctor specializing in treating allergies.

As for the safety of fish consumption, there has been concern about mercury levels in fish. Mercury is a heavy metal that, if consumed in large amounts, can build up in the blood and cause health problems. The FDA regulates the mercury levels in fish, so it is safe to eat for the general population. Women who are pregnant, may become pregnant, or breastfeeding are encouraged to limit their fish intake.

Finally, the American Heart Association recommends consuming oily fish (3 ounces cooked) twice a week to get your omega-3s (2). Adding tuna or salmon to a salad brings a filling protein source. Baked, broiled, or grilled fish are always healthy options. Fried fish is a tasteful alternative once or twice a month.

Disclaimer: This column is for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for medical treatment. Talk to your doctor if you think you have any type of allergy.

Until next time, be healthy!  
Dear Dietitian

### References

1. Bernhisel-Broadbent J, Scanlon SM, Sampson HA. "Fish hypersensitivity II: Clinical relevance of altered fish allergenicity cause by various preparation methods." *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 1992; 90:622-629

2. "Fish and Omega-3 Fatty Acids" <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-eating/eat-smart/fats/fish-and-omega-3-fatty-acids>. 1 Nov 2021

Leanne McCrate, RDN, LD, is an award-winning dietitian based in Missouri. Her mission is to educate consumers on sound, scientifically-based nutrition. Do you have a nutrition question? Email her today at [deardietitian411@gmail.com](mailto:deardietitian411@gmail.com). Dear Dietitian does not endorse any products, health programs, or diet plans. ★



### LOCAL FISHING

Arroyo de Los Venados, AKA Creek of the Deer. Yahi Indian Potato Patch to the Lower Falls. USE: Mayflies: BWO, PMD, March Brown. (b) Lower Yuba River; American Shad are here. USE: Shad Darts, or Shad Flies. (a)

### Bowman Lake Loop; The Series

#10 Bowman Lake; at 5586 ft elevation, the largest lake in the loop. Primitive campsites, two gravel boat ramps. Note: Do not take the Bowman Lake Road off Hwy 20, if towing a trailer. Take the longer way around, Hwy. 89 to Henness Pass Rd., then Jackson Meadow Rd. Fish the Milton Tunnel outflow for nice lake trout.



Super Dupers

Fan cast...USE: Super Duper #500, #501, #502, #503. (a)

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA

Berkeley Flats; 57 halibut for 19 anglers, limits kept, excess returned, and 4 stripers. USE: Live Anchovy. (b) Delta; Disappointment Slough. Noted for its Chain Pickerel (Esox niger). Description: More spots than the Northern Pike. Smallest (36"L X 7lbs) of the Pike family. Mouth full of big teeth. Sweet meat, but super bony. USE: Spoons w/ Pork Rinds. (a) Delta; Sacramento River West Bank and San Joaquin River Three Mile Slough. Deep troll the rivers. Non-spawned females; 8-10 keepers to 16lbs daily. USE: Rapala (b)

### COASTAL WATERS

Monterey Bay; trolling for 8-10 lb. King salmon. USE: Live Anchovy. (a) Fort Bragg King salmon season closes June 1 to June 22, 2022.

### LAKES RESERVOIRS AND RIVERS

Clear Lake Crappie; limits of 25. USE: Crappie Jigs (b) Folsom Lake salmon. Try the North Fork. Trolling 40'-60' deep, 1.8 MPH. Limits of 7-8 lb. salmon. USE: 5" Blade w/ Speedy Shiner. (a) Catch small and large mouth bass from shore. USE: Senko (a) Pyramid Lake, Nevada. Boaters find some cutthroats in deep water. USE: Blade Runner Spoon. (g) Berryessa Lake; high winds prevent anglers from chasing Donkey Trout. Lake Almanor, Canyon Dam. Try Prattville North, bass to 5-lbs. Slow troll...USE: Red Dot Frog. (a) Rainbows at the NW Corner, water temp 60 degrees. Slow troll 1.8 MPH w/ 80' set back. USE: 3-inch Dodger w/ Nightcrawler trailer. (a) Folsom Lake Bass Tournament. 33 large mouth bass found dead? CDF&W investigating. EHB: Fish pulled up from 1-atmosphere deep (30-plus ft.) develop an air embolism that overinflates the air bladder, causing death.

### RIVER FISHING

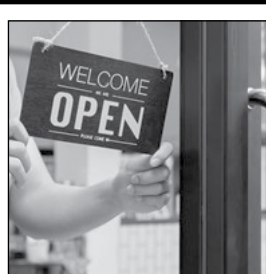
American River, American shad; Fly fishermen using 14-ft Spey Rods. USE: Shad Fly w/ Indicator. (a) Sacramento River, Metro area. Gives up a 48" striper. USE: Sardines. (b) Rio Vista area; lots of 26"-28" sturgeon, very few 28"-40". Boating



Yo-Zuri

limits of 55"- 58" sturgeons. USE: Eel (b) San Joaquin River stripers found near Prisoners Point. Limits for all. USE: Yo-Zuri tipped w/ white corn. (b)

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~ Brownie



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# Allergies or COVID? Emergency Physicians Explain How to Tell the Difference

**Commentary**  
by Steve Amoff, ACEP

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - The springtime sniffles are here, and it can be tricky to determine whether common symptoms are due to COVID-19 or seasonal allergies. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) offers tips to distinguish between the two and determine when symptoms become an emergency.

"It can be confusing to figure out whether your symptoms are allergies or something worse," said Gillian Schmitz, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. "Some symptoms of COVID and allergies overlap, but there are a few clear signs that indicate a COVID infection."

A quick quiz can help you determine whether you have COVID-19 or seasonal allergies:

Do you have a fever? Seasonal allergies do not typically include a fever. It is possible to get COVID without a fever. But, when the body temperature is unusually high, it's often a sign of illness rather than allergy.

Do you typically have allergies? It's understandable to be concerned about COVID, but if the season reliably brings familiar symptoms like an itchy or runny nose, sneezing, or watery eyes, it's likely allergies flaring up again. COVID symptoms can overlap but often include additional signs of concern. The duration of symptoms is important, too. COVID symptoms last about a week but could have longer-term effects, while allergies tend to stick around for months.

Are your symptoms more than coughing or sneezing? Some of the most common COVID symptoms are consistent

with allergies or a cold and can include a sore throat or runny nose. A likely sign of COVID is the addition of one or more symptoms, including body aches, fatigue, nausea, stomach problems or diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell.

People with COVID may feel short of breath or have difficulty breathing, but seasonal allergies don't usually cause breathing issues unless there's an underlying respiratory condition, such as asthma, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Are you taking avoidable risks? Even without symptoms, it is helpful to continue to wear a mask, social distance, and get vaccinated to decrease the chances of getting sick and slow the spread of COVID.

Stay home if you are sick, whether it is with COVID or another illness and

contact a primary care physician when symptoms are mild to discuss treatment options. It is time to visit the closest emergency department or call 911 for any medical emergency, such as trouble breathing or shortness of breath, when illness become severe, or there is a high risk of illness or complications due to age or preexisting conditions.

To stay safe, visit a testing site or take an at-home COVID test when symptoms start. Free at-home tests are available to order from the government on COVID.gov or they can be purchased at retailers or pharmacies.

"We should all continue to take every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID," said Dr. Schmitz. "The best way to clear up doubt is to get tested for COVID when worrisome symptoms appear." ★

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  - Sign up
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  - Toy flyer
  - Clickable text
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  - Boundary lines
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  - Slovenian ski maker
  - Cut with a beam
  - Matt Damon/Adam Driver movie "The Last \_\_\_"
  - 2-dimensional
  - Single-cell protozoan
  - Manhole cover
  - Joviality
  - \*"Nights in White \_\_\_"
  - Bullying, e.g.
  - Katmandu country
  - \*Eurasian trade route namesake
  - Stake driver
  - Blacksmith's block
  - Part of a play
  - \*Chinos fabric
  - \*"Buenos \_\_\_"
  - Adverse
  - Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: "\_\_\_ Your Children"
  - Powerfully persuasive
  - 1990s negotiation
  - Formerly, formerly
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  - Flambé
  - Three-\_\_\_ sloth
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## Former Church Administrator Arrested in Oklahoma, Charged with Fraud /Identity Theft



**Commentary**  
by Lou Binninger

In early December 2021, a Moore, Oklahoma single mother received a text from her day care provider. "There is an emergency. We need you to pick-up your child immediately. Nothing is wrong with your child."

"Imagine my surprise when I show up to pick-up my son and the FBI is waiting for us," says the mother. They wouldn't tell us anything other than "they are not investigating anything with the day care including physical harm to children." My day care provider was Chanell Easton. Her husband is Aaron Easton.

As a new parent I was losing my mind said the mother. She called Department of Health Services (DHS) to ask about the Eastons. DHS was not helpful. She then found an article online about the unsolved death of Sara Matthews Easton, then Marysville Chief of Police Aaron Easton's deceased wife. She never returned to the daycare for her son's belongings.

On May 19, 2022, a federal grand jury in Sacramento returned an indictment, charging Chanell Easton with 22 counts of wire fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft for a scheme to embezzle church funds, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

"According to court documents, from June 2013 to February 2018, Easton worked as an administrator at a church in Yuba City. During her employment, Easton stole over \$360,000 from the church, including

from its food pantry and youth ministry, during a years-long embezzlement scheme. Without the church's knowledge or authorization, Easton opened five business credit card accounts in the church's name. Easton used these five credit cards, as well as a credit card used by the church's youth pastor, to make personal purchases – including at a hair salon, retail stores, online retailers, a vacation rental service, and to buy concert tickets – and then paid off the resulting balance with the church's money. Easton also transferred money directly from the church's bank accounts to her own personal account, paid down the balance of her own personal credit card, and paid her cellphone provider for her personal bills and for new phones." (U.S. Attorney's Office Statement)

(The Pastor of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church Garret Andrew, Easton's boss, served there from January 1, 2013 to August of 2020. He now pastors Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church. Chanell Bright Easton left her church job after marrying former Marysville Chief of Police Aaron Easton on December 9, 2017. They eventually relocated to Oklahoma.)

If Chanell Easton is found guilty as charged that means she was embezzling church funds while being the fiancé of Marysville's Chief of Police. The Aaron / Chanell timeline reaches nearly back to Sara Matthews Easton's death.

The Appeal Democrat published a story on November 9, 2017 describing accusations of a former police cadet that Aaron Easton forced her to perform oral sex in a patrol car in 2008. Chief Easton resigned the day the story appeared according to the paper. The Yuba County Sheriff's Department and the

District Attorney had been investigating the accusation.

Sara Matthews Easton died on August 16, 2015 from a gunshot wound to the head in Aaron and Sara's Yuba City, CA. bedroom. The case is unresolved. The Sutter County coroner has never declared the "manner" or circumstances of Sara's death. The probe was turned over to the California Department of Justice where Vice President Kamala Harris was then the Attorney General. The investigation ended there.

The Sara Matthews Easton death tainted Sutter County District Attorney Amanda Hopper's time in office. Hopper could not prosecute the case as her then husband Brian Hopper was interviewed by Yuba City Police Department regarding Sara's death. The Hoppers and Eastons were friends at one time.

The indictment also says that Chanell Easton stole money from the church by writing checks to others and to her for personal expenses. She forged the signatures of the church's treasurer or the head volunteer of the church's food pantry.

This case is the result of the investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Elliot C. Wong and Christopher S. Hales are prosecuting the case.

If convicted, Easton faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20-years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of wire fraud, and a mandatory two-year sentence on each count of aggravated identity theft. The charges are allegations and Chaney is presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Lou Binninger can be heard on *No Hostages Radio* podcast, live on *KMYC 1410AM 10-1 Saturdays*, read at *Live with Lou on Facebook* and at *Nohostagesradio.com* ★

## Jury Finds Richard Pyle Not Guilty for the 1991 Cold Case Homicide

**Butte County DA News Release**

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Richard Pyle, 58, of Stockton, California, was found not guilty on May 16 by a Butte County jury, of the 1991 Sterling City murder of his girlfriend, and mother of two, Tracy Zandstra, 29. Zandstra's body has never been located.

The trial took place over an eight-day period and started April 25, 2022. The jury heard testimony from Department of Justice DNA experts, who tested a piece of hair, scalp, and blood that was located by a witness a few days after she disappeared from the home she shared with Pyle and her two children in 1991. The tissue was later identified as Zandstra's. Additionally, the jury heard from another witness, who described Pyle saying a day or two before the disappearance, "If I'm alone with her, I'm probably going to kill her."

The jury also heard from Nicole, the daughter of Tracy, who was 6 years old when her mother disappeared. She identified samples of her mom's handwriting and confirmed that a card received by law enforcement from Pyle, purporting

to be from Tracy some months after her disappearance, did not match Tracy's handwriting.

Finally, the jury heard prior testimony from Robert Zandstra, who was 12 years old at the time of his mother's disappearance. Robert's testimony was not live, as he had been murdered in Yuba County two weeks before the trial. Robert's prior testimony described waking up as a child in the Pyle home, coming downstairs and being forced by Pyle to assist in chopping up his mother's body, and putting her into bags to be buried. He also described being forced to clean up the blood left behind in the Pyle home.

The trial concluded with argument of counsel followed by deliberation on Friday, May 13th. The jury reached their verdict of not guilty on May 16, 2022. Pyle was discharged from custody. He had been arrested for the cold-case murder in 2019.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey, stated, "our hearts go out to Tracy's family and hope by giving them a voice in this trial, the family will receive some long-awaited peace and closure." ★

## Congress Introduces Legislation Requiring the U.S. Forest Service to Suppress Wildfires

**Office of Congressman Doug LaMalfa**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - Congressman Tom McClintock (CA-04) and Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01) introduced legislation directing the U.S. Forest Service to immediately suppress wildfires on National Forest System lands and put an end to the policy of letting fires burn.

"This 'let burn' policy of federal land managers began in 1972, during the height of the radical environmental movement," McClintock said. "Essentially, it holds that 'fire is our friend.' It stems from the premise that fire is nature's way of cleaning up forests, and that active suppression of fires leads to a build-up of excess fuels. As we have tragically witnessed firsthand, it is dangerous nonsense to 'monitor' incipient fires in today's forest tinderbox. The U.S. Forest Service was formed to remove excess growth before it can burn and to preserve our forests in a healthy condition from generation to generation.

It's time they did."

"The days of 'monitoring' fires must end. Northern California is burning up at a record rate. The Forest Service's monitoring policy and 'watch and wait' has allowed multiple catastrophic fires to unnecessarily escalate and devastate our wildlands and rural towns," LaMalfa said. "In 24 hours, what starts out as a small blaze can expand to consume thousands of homes, municipal facilities, and businesses. Drought stricken; unmanaged, overgrown forests are a ticking timebomb for another massive fire. In addition to aggressive initial attacks on fires, we must properly manage our forests by thinning near towns and infrastructure, clear a wider buffer zone around power lines, as well as use roads as firebreaks. Our forests are overgrown, the long term solution is to return to proper management and aggressively thin them. Why is America the number 2 importer of wood while our own forests burn to the ground - causing untold damage to families, pollution that chokes half the country, and destroying the environment?" ★

## Joining Forces to Bolster Wildfire Safety and Preparedness

**PG&E News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the PG&E Corporation Foundation (Foundation) are continuing their partnership with the California Fire Foundation to (CFF) increase wildfire safety and preparedness.

PG&E and The Foundation are providing \$1.4 million, in aggregate, to CFF's Wildfire Safety and Preparedness Program (WSPP).

Now in its fifth year, the program's objective is to raise public awareness about wildfire safety and deliver resources to underserved communities in high fire-risk areas. It includes a grant program that awarded 54 local fire departments, fire agencies and community groups \$670,000 in funding last year.

Beginning May 18, fire departments and community-based organizations in California can submit applications for this year's wildfire safety and awareness grants. Applications must be submitted by 11:45 p.m. on June 17, 2022, at the CFF website. Award notification will begin mid-July 2022.

Since 2018, the CFF, which administers and manages the WSPP, has awarded 199 grants to fire departments and fire agencies statewide, focusing its efforts in Northern and Central California. Funding targets communities identified as having extreme or elevated fire risk as identified by the California Public Utilities Commission.

"California's drought, coupled with drier, hotter conditions are putting communities at risk. The Wildfire Safety and Preparedness Program is a partnership with PG&E that was created to address the increasing wildfire risk," said Rick Martinez, Executive Director of CFF. "Our partnership over the last five years, in which California has seen an increase in fire activity, has played an important role in helping local communities

become more fire-safe."

"At PG&E we've taken a stand that catastrophic wildfires shall stop. But we know we can't do it alone. It will take all of us working together to mitigate the wildfire risk, and help our hometowns be better prepared and be more resilient to this growing threat," said Sumeet Singh, PG&E Executive Vice President, Chief Risk Officer and Interim Chief Safety Officer.

**How the Grants Help Communities**

Over the past five years, PG&E has provided \$6 million in total support for fire safety awareness through the WSPP. The charitable contribution is shareholder-funded, not paid for by PG&E customers.

Since 2018, WSPP has funded: Specialized fire equipment and personal protective equipment; Defensible space and vegetation management efforts; Fuel/hazard reduction programs; Fire prevention and emergency preparedness education including senior citizen wildfire preparedness programs; Fire safety outreach campaigns including 12,000 brochures targeting underserved communities in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hmong and Vietnamese; Partnerships with community groups in high fire-risk areas to distribute fire-safety information.

The WSPP develops and distributes in-language fire-safety messaging targeting Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, and Vietnamese communities. These efforts include a comprehensive media campaign consisting of outdoor billboards and in-language television, radio, and digital ads.

The CFF, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, aids firefighters, their families and the communities they protect. The CFF's Firefighters on Your Side program, also supported by PG&E, provides multi-lingual, culturally relevant fire safety messaging in both digital and print form, to assist the public in staying safe. ★

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# WEEKLY COMICS

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by Dave T. Phipps



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



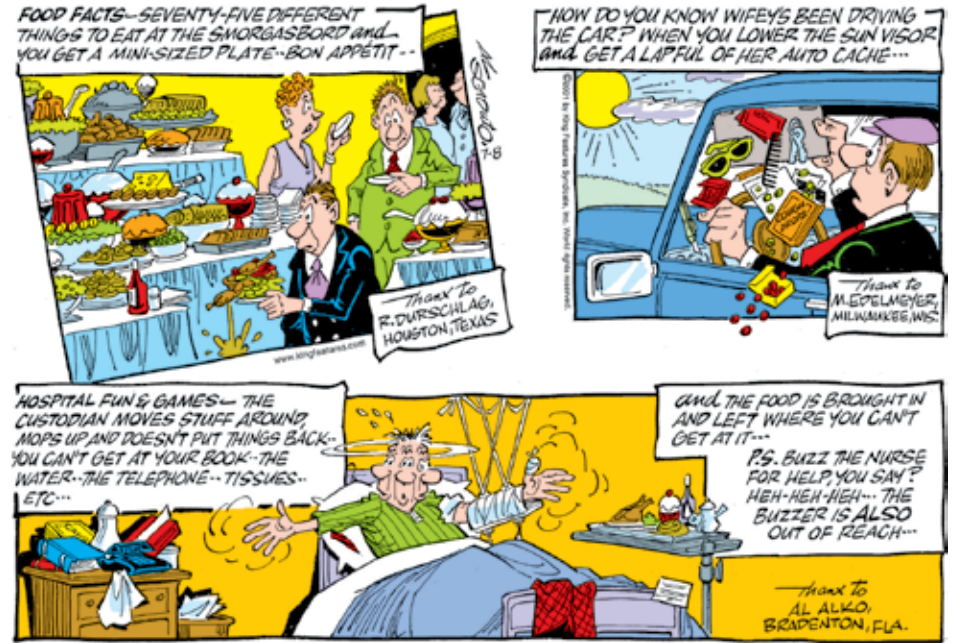
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



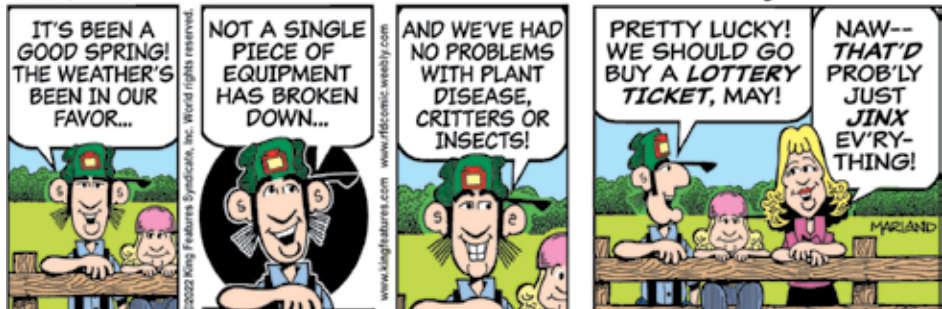
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



## GRIN and BEAR IT

## LAFF-A-DAY



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

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# Caltrans Honors Fallen Highway Workers at Memorial

**Caltrans Press Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Caltrans dignitaries, employees, families and friends gathered solemnly on the west steps of the State Capitol for the department's 32nd Annual Workers Memorial to remember and honor the 189 public servants who have died since 1921 while building and maintaining California's transportation system.

The yearly memorial – in addition to honoring families and giving staff the opportunity to pay respects to their fallen colleagues – reminds us to “Be Work Zone Alert” and “Move Over” a lane when you see flashing amber lights ahead, or slow down if not safe to do so.

“Safety is always Caltrans’ top priority and the tragedies that brought us here today have resulted in intensified safety efforts within the department,” said Caltrans Acting Director Steven Keck. “Zero deaths on our state highway system is the only acceptable



Caltrans employees honor the 189 fallen highway workers that have died since 1921. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

transportation system – we remind all motorists to please Slow for the Cone Zone, Be Work Zone Alert and Move Over when you see flashing amber lights.”

During the ceremony, Caltrans placed 189 orange traffic cones in a diamond “caution sign” configuration, each bearing the name of an employee lost since



A Caltrans employee plays a trumpet while the organization honor the 189 fallen highway workers that have died since 1921. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

number, and – as we recognize those who tragically died while at work on our

2021. A black cone in the center represented all people killed while working



A Caltrans employee holds an orange cone while honoring the 189 fallen highway workers that have died since 1921. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

on the state highway system, including private contractors, tow truck drivers, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers and other emergency responders. The commemoration also included the Caltrans Honor Guard, who led the symbolic tribute. Additionally, flags are flying at half-staff today at the State Capitol and at all

Caltrans facilities in honor of these fallen workers.

The ceremony marked the third year in a row that no new names were added to the memorial – the longest stretch in nearly 75 years – though speakers at the memorial stressed the need for everyone to remain vigilant.

With the help of Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and

Accountability Act of 2017, as well as the recently enacted federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Caltrans and local agencies now have significant additional funds to repair and maintain California's transportation system. The additional funding also increases the number of Caltrans employees and contractors working on our roadways,

increasing their exposure.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. In 2020, more than 6,500 work zone collisions occurred on California roadways, resulting in an estimated 1,964 injuries and 60 fatalities. Nationally, drivers and passengers account for 85 percent of the people who are killed in work zones.


In February, Caltrans announced a new Director's Policy on Road Safety, which commits the department to the Safe System approach and reaffirms the vision of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on state highways by 2050. This policy takes steps to further a shift that began in 2020, as state transportation leaders recognized a bolder and more focused approach was necessary to combat the troubling rise in fatalities and serious injuries on California roads. The state's 2020-24 Strategic Highway Safety Plan – managed by Caltrans and involving more than 400 stakeholders – was updated to include the Safe System approach.

Caltrans has partnered with the California Transportation Foundation to develop two funds to benefit the families of Caltrans workers killed on the job. The Fallen Workers Assistance and Memorial Fund helps with the initial needs a surviving family faces and the Caltrans Fallen Workers Memorial Scholarship is available to the children of these workers. For more information or to make donations, visit the California Transportation Foundation. ★

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Any inquiries?  
CONTACT US TODAY!  
**(530) 846-9080**

Feeling sick? The medical care team at Orchard Hospital is here to find you the right treatment. That's how we keep care close to home. **Schedule your appointment today!**

Monday - Friday: 7AM - 7PM  
Saturday - Sunday: 8AM - 5PM

284 Spruce Street, Gridley, CA 95948

