



HOOP-LA!

The Gridley Herald Celebrates
The Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament



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FRIDAY • DECEMBER 17, 2021 • VOL. 141 NO. 50



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Campolindo Claims Championship



Campolindo celebrates winning the Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament. Photo by Noah Ross

By Noah Ross

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Campolindo Cougars captured the title of the 67th annual Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Cougars played the Archbishop Riordan High School Crusaders in the championship game after defeating Gridley High School 89-17 in the first round and coming back to win in the 4th quarter to beat De La Salle High School 48-41 in the second round.

The first half of the championship game was back and forth like a

rickety old rowboat on rough seas. Campolindo played a clean first quarter not turning the ball over and kept out of foul trouble. The Crusaders turned the ball over three times in the first quarter, all of which led to Campolindo points. Neither team was able to separate themselves and after 2 quarters, the game was tied at 21.

However, the third quarter was another story. Led by the tournament's most valuable player, Aidan Mahaney, Campolindo took control of the game going on a 19-4 run in the third quarter. Fouls by the Crusaders allowed the Cougars to

pull away and never look back. The Cougar defense played zone and was able to prevent Archbishop Riordan from driving the ball through the lane to the basket. The Crusaders were denied easy layups and had to shoot from distance to score. The score after 3 quarters was 40-25.

In the 4th quarter the Campolindo offense slowed down only scoring 8 points, but they played for time of possession rather than scoring, knowing that they could easily run out the clock with a 17 point lead. Despite Archbishop Riordan's best efforts, the game's final score was 48-31. ★

Requirements for Universal Masking Indoors

Butte County
Department of Public Health
Press Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) -

In response to an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations throughout California, as the holiday season continues with uncertainties about the new Omicron variant, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requiring masks to be worn in all indoor public settings, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. This requirement will be in place December 15, 2021, through January 15, 2022.

Certain exemptions apply to the masking requirement, including children younger than two years old, anyone with respiratory issues, anyone unable to remove a mask without help and persons with certain medical conditions.

According to CDPH, since Thanksgiving, the statewide seven-day average case rate has increased by 47% and hospitalizations have increased by 14%. Universal masking has proven to decrease the rate of infection and works to slow community transmission.

While Butte County has not experienced a recent increase in cases, the CDPH masking requirements apply to all indoor public settings throughout the county. Since the beginning of the pandemic, surges experienced in the southern and central parts of the state are good indicators of how Butte County may be impacted in the coming weeks.

In addition to wearing a mask, residents can protect themselves against COVID-19, including variants, and limit the spread of illness by taking the following actions:

Get Vaccinated. All vaccines are proven safe and effective at preventing severe illness. Butte County residents age 5 and older are eligible for vaccination. Find a vaccine at: MyTurn.ca.gov

Get a Vaccine Booster. Boosters are available for those who are at least six months out from their primary series of Moderna (age 18+) and Pfizer (age 16+) and two months out from the J&J (18+) single dose vaccine.

Get Tested if you have symptoms or have known exposure, regardless of vaccination status. It is recommended that all travelers arriving to Butte County from outside of California should get tested 3-5 days after arrival.

Stay Home if Sick. COVID-19 symptoms can feel like the common cold or allergies.

Wash Hands Often. Simple personal hygiene actions can prevent the spread of illness.

For more information about COVID-19 in Butte County, visit: www.buttecounty.net/COVID-19. ★

Interfaith Group Gathers to Assemble Christmas Boxes

By Cindy Scott

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The GERS Christmas Basket distribution has blessed the Gridley community for so many decades that current organizers have no idea when it started. However, there is agreement that the effort is at least 50 years old.

GERS stands for Gridley Emergency Relief Services, a year-round effort that assists families in need. However, GERS shines brightest at Christmas, when cash donations are used to purchase groceries, and volunteers from several churches gather to assemble and distribute the baskets.

Pastor Ed Lucas, Gridley Christian Church, gathers donations from members of several area churches and completes the purchasing with the help of Casa Lupe, Sav Mor, and Randy Smith Produce. Lois Macfarlane, First Baptist Church of Gridley, organizes the assembling and distribution. The boxes contain staples such as flour and sugar, canned goods such as soups and veggies, and fresh produce such as apples and potatoes.



Jodie Jimenez assembles produce bags for the GERS Christmas Baskets. GERS provides assistance year-round and distributes special grocery boxes at Christmas. Photo by Cindy Scott

Coupons are added for turkey, chicken, and milk from local grocery stores.

Volunteers gather early on a Saturday morning at the First Baptist Church of

Gridley. The large activity room allows space for several tables of groceries, with room for runners who assemble the boxes. Starting last year with the

pandemic, families drive through to receive their boxes. GERS has served as many as 120 families.

The morning distribution
Continued on page 2

GIBT 2021 is One for the Books!

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - After three days of intense rally on the court, the 67th Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament is a wrap.

Known by many as one of the best basketball tournaments north of the Bay Area and to the Oregon State border, GIBT has been a high-profile event in our community for over 67 years. There have only been two instances in the history of GIBT when the tournament was unable to be held; Once in 1978, and of course, in 2020 due to COVID-19.

GIBT returned full force in 2021, hosting 8 teams from across the north state that pitted athletes of incredible skills against each other from schools in the Bay Area, Sacramento Area and Gridley. The final tournament ranking is as follows:

Champions: Campolindo

High School of Moraga; 2nd Place: Archbishop Riordan High School of San Francisco, CA; 3rd place: De La Salle High School out of Concord, CA; 4th Place: Sacramento High School of Sacramento, CA; Consolation: Sheldon High School out of Elk Grove, CA; 6th place: Dublin High School of Dublin, CA; 7th Place: Salesian College Preparatory School of Richmond, CA; 8th Place: Gridley High School.

The tournament's Most Valuable Player award went to #20 - Aidan Mahaney, of Campolindo High School. The high point scorer of the tournament was #23 - Courtney Anderson Jr., of Dublin High School with a tournament total score of 97 points.

In addition to these outstanding athletes, All Tournament Team Members included: #5 - Tyler Harris - Salesian College Preparatory School; #23-Courtney Anderson

Jr. - Dublin High School; #1 Donovan Morgan - Sheldon High School; #23 Benjamin Roseborough - Sacramento High School; #33 Alec Blair - De La Salle High School; #20-Johnny Semany - De La Salle High School; #3 King-Jhsanni Wilhite - Archbishop Riordan High School; #10 - Antonio Pusateri- Archbishop Riordan High School; and #22-Cade Bennett-Campolindo High School.

Thursday: Game 1: Dublin (63) -vs- Sacramento (81). Game 2: Archbishop Riordan (58) -vs- Salesian (44). Game 3: Gridley (17) -vs- Campolindo (89). Game 4: De La Salle (65) -vs- Sheldon (54)

Friday: Game 1: Dublin (73) -vs- Salesian (63). Game 2: Gridley (21) -vs- Sheldon (89). Game 3: Sacramento (53) -vs- Archbishop Riordan (60). Game 4: Campolindo (48) -vs- De La Salle (41).

Saturday: Game 1: Salesian (72) -vs- Gridley (16). Game 2: Dublin (59) -vs- Sheldon (62). Game 3: Sacramento (62) -vs- De La Salle (73). Championship Game: Archbishop Riordan (31) -vs- Campolindo (48).

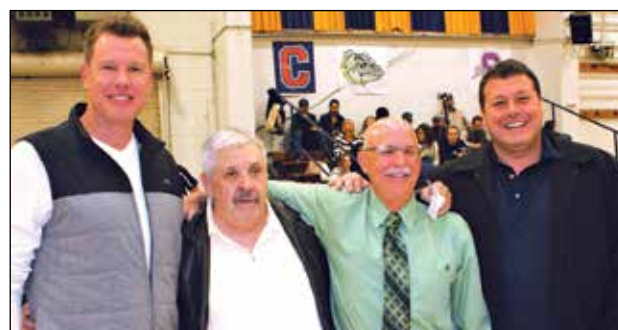
For more information on current and past GIBT tournaments, visit Gridleyinvitational.org. ★



Picture here are some of the All Tourney players from Archbishop Riordan High School and Campolindo High School. Pictured left to right: #10- Antonio Pusateri; #3 - King-Jhsanni Wilhite from Archbishop Riordan and #20 Aidan Mahaney; and #22 Cade Bennett from Campolindo. Photo provided by Patti Kilby



Gridley crowned Ms. Lucero Angel as the 2021 GIBT Queen. Photo provided by Patti Kilby



Gridley has had 5 players that have been leading scorers in the GIBT tournament and on Friday night, the tournament honored these men. Pictured left to right: Jason Parker - 75 points in 2000, Jay Olsen - 105 points, 1968, Chris McIntire tournament director, Tim Hughes - 87 points in 1992. Unable to attend were Andy Rodgers - 66 in 1979 and Efen Del Rio - 62 in 2003. Jay Olsen is the all-time scorer with 105 points for 3 games. Photo provided by Patti Kilby

A Night of Great Games



The tournament's Most Valuable Player award went to #20 - Aidan Mahaney, of Campolindo High School. Photo by Zachary Torres

Story and Photos by Zachary Torres

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Friday night saw a number of good games as the Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament entered the second day of play.

Host team Gridley played the 5:30 pm game against an impressive Sheldon team out of the Elk-Grove/Sacramento Area. Despite the Bulldogs efforts they ultimately fell to Sheldon 89-31.

The 7:00 pm game proved to be much more exciting with Sacramento High School playing against Archbishop Riordan High School visiting from San Francisco. The action started immediately

with Riordan jumping out to small lead before Sacramento found their footing. The action remained through the rest of the game with Riordan taking the win at the end of the game, 60-53.

In between the 7 and 8:30 game Gridley High Royalty make their way onto the court for the crowning of this year's GIBT Queen, Lucera Angel.

The 8:30 game featured Campolindo High School out of Moraga, CA versus De La Salle High school coming to Gridley out of Concord. It was a game of hard-fought baskets; a test of both team's defenses. Campolindo would finish the game ahead of De La Salle, 48-41. ★

Interfaith Group Gathers



Volunteers from several local churches gather to assemble GERS Christmas baskets. L to R: Tinka Kalverweiden (Christian Life Church), Sharon Barker (Calvary Chapel of Gridley), Cindy Scott (Church of Jesus Christ), Paula Henry (First Baptist Church of Gridley), and Taylor Kessler (Lighthouse Tabernacle). Photo by Cindy Scott

Continued from page 1

makes for what is likely the most truly interfaith event in Gridley. This year, volunteers were members of the Gridley Christian Church, First Baptist Church of Gridley, Lighthouse Tabernacle, Christian Life Church, Calvary Chapel Gridley, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Gridley

United Methodist Church, Thermalito Baptist, PBFC-Palermo, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and other faiths.

GERS welcomes cash donations and volunteers. Please contact Pastor Ed Lucas at 530-846-4002, gcc-pastor@sbcglobal.net or PO Box 931, Gridley CA 95948. ★

THANK YOU to our sponsors and volunteers of the Grinchmas Breakfast:

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Bulldogs Dominated by Campolindo in Rough Start to GIBT



Gridley Offense sets up during the GIBT. Photo by Noah Ross

By Noah Ross

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Despite being down 33 points in the first quarter, you never saw the Gridley Bulldogs Basketball Team quit in their loss to Campolindo in the first round of the Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament. The Bulldogs fought as hard as they could against a Campolindo squad that was clearly bigger and had more depth.

The Bulldogs' hard luck started in the first quarter when Campolindo went on a 24-0 run to start the game. Campolindo got to the foul line early and often in the first quarter, scoring 5 of its 35 first quarter points on free throws. The Bulldogs committed 7 turnovers in the first quarter alone which made the going all that much tougher for the rest of the game.

The Bulldogs offense came alive in the

second quarter when sophomore Aaron Kullar scored 4 of his 7 points. Despite Kullar's effort, Gridley was outscored 15-7 in the second quarter. Again, multiple turnovers stymied the Bulldog offense. Campolindo capitalized on the mistakes with fast breaks that led to points from dunks or easy layups.

The third quarter also started bad for the Bulldogs. The Cougars got three offensive rebounds in its first possession of the 3rd quarter leading to a 3-pointer. Another 5 turnovers from Gridley in the third quarter led to easy Cougar points. The score was 75-12 after the third quarter.

Gridley fought as hard as they could in the 4th quarter, but the effort was futile. More turnovers and getting out hustled on the offensive boards led to 16 more Cougar points in the 4th quarter.

The final score of the game was 91-17. ★

MEMORIAL

• ANNIE REID •



Annie Reid and son Kai (6) were on winter vacation in Maine. Photo provided by Peggy Harshbarger

TRAGIC ACCIDENT TAKES LIFE OF ANNIE REID (HARSHBARGER)

Harshbarger Family

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Local residents Keith and Peggy Harshbarger of Gridley traveled with their grandson Kai and daughter Annie Reid to visit Ken & Katie Macdonald for a winter vacation in Topsham, Maine.

On the morning of December 7th Annie and Kai were taking a walk with the family dog when Jorge A. Rodriguez-Ramos, 35, of Brunswick, Maine swerved over two

lanes and struck Annie. She was treated on the scene and airlifted to the Medical Center in Lewiston where she died.

Her 6-year-old son and the family dog were not injured. According to eyewitnesses police believe at this time the driver fell asleep at the wheel. The investigation is ongoing.

Annie was 38 years old and a 2002 graduate of Gridley High School. Funeral services are pending.

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The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

From time to time, I dive into rating restaurants or giving travel reviews as part of the Pi-Line. In this episode, Bill Burleson makes the trek to Redding, looking for French food, something I would never do, in the Wednesday, January 15th 1997 original Pi-Line: It was a special occasion, so we pondered where to go to have a special time. Sacramento? No!

Fog, water, and traffic. I called Record Searchlight Newspaper CEO Larry Wakefield. He gave us a list of restaurants and suggested the Red Lion or Oxford Suites. We chose the latter. The real winner was the new French, Italian, American restaurant called DeMercurio's on Hartnell. This is as good as any French restaurant you will find in San Francisco. Fantastic atmosphere and service and the food is prize-winning. They also have cocktails and an excellent wine list. The special exotic wild game of the day was ostrich steak, prepared by Cal J. DeMercurio, a certified executive chef. It was worth it. DeMercurio's is not easy to find, and it is relatively small.

Reservations are necessary. It is worth the drive, about two hours the way I-5 moves along at 70. Go across the Woodson Bridge road to Corning: We also visited Buzz's Crab Shack, which advertises on TV. It is good seafood, lots of variety, nothing fancy, geared for a large crowd. Place your order and pay at the cash register, get your own water, find a table, they deliver the order. Redding has become a big city, freeways, and expressways running in all directions. Traffic lights and Shopping centers all over. Ten screen theaters. It isn't as we remember from visits years go.

Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley. ★



Farm Bureau President Calls for Climate-Smart Approaches that Protect Farmers

The California Farm Bureau, the Golden State's largest agricultural organization, is holding its 103rd Annual Meeting in Orange County this week. The session opened with President Jamie Johansson calling for policies that support climate-smart agriculture but don't compromise farmers' ability to bring crops to the market. Johansson said farmers must be allowed to undertake conservation efforts without harmful government interference. "It's not a climate solution," he said, "if you make farmers less efficient."

Farm Bureau, Immigration Forum Partner on Citizenship Effort

The California Farm Bureau and the National Immigration Forum announced a partnership to support farmers and ranchers wanting to help their employees become U.S. citizens. The organizations are creating an online portal to encourage eligible workers to apply. The Farm Bureau will pay for immigration services member farmers and ranchers request on behalf of employees. The program applies to farm employees who already have legal status but are seeking citizenship and stability in the workforce.

Christmas Tree Farmers Serving Holiday Rush, While Preserving Evergreens for Future

A steady flow of customers is flocking to California Christmas tree farms. But current supplies of the evergreens are tighter than normal. Tree farmers say they're trying to manage crowds and their Christmas-time crop to ensure there will also be sufficient trees to sell in future years. Supplies have been impacted by California's population and steady demand for trees as some farmers retire and there are few new ones to replace them. The drought is also making growing harder.

Legal disputes over biological decisions affecting management of Delta

A federal judge is reviewing biological opinions that could affect agricultural water users relying on irrigation supplies from the Central Valley and state water projects. U.S. District Judge Dale Drozd in Fresno has received legal briefs from the Biden administration that argue for water management approaches to protect fish and wildlife in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The issue has been bogged down in lawsuits over 2019 biological opinions issued under the Trump administration. ★

You're Invited to a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

By Gridley Christian Church

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Christian Church invites the community to celebrate the birth of Jesus by coming to a Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6:30 PM. Lovely Christmas carols will be sung. A charming Christmas storybook will be read to the children. Communion will be served. A

short meaningful talk will be given by Pastor Ed Lucas. The singing of Silent Night will end this wonderful service. Finger foods will be available following the service. Gridley Christian Church is located on the corner of Hazel and Washington Streets next to Sav-Mor Market. Call Pastor Ed with any concerns you may have at 530-846-4002. Merry Christmas! ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Edward Stephen Melton

October 18, 1940 to December 6, 2021

A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 1:00 pm, at Christian Life Assembly of God Church, 1526 Humble Avenue in Gridley, for Edward Stephen Melton, Sr., 81, of Gridley. Edward went to be with our Lord and Savior on Monday, December 6, 2021.

Edward was born on October 18, 1940, in Oroville, California. He resided in Gridley his entire life, working for the City of Gridley's Public Works Department, where he eventually became the Director. Edward built a career in this department for over 40 years, eventually becoming the Director of Public Works for the City and remaining in this role until his retirement in December 2003. Throughout his career, Edward made numerous friends and was well known in the community. After retiring, Edward enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening as well as spending time with his family.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents, L.G. "Red" Melton in 1989 and Naomi Simmons Melton in 2010; and his son-in-law, Randall Bissell in 2014.



He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Shirley Melton, of Gridley; his brothers Gale Melton

(Shirley) of Terrebonne, OR and David Melton (Beverly) of Gridley; his daughters, Dianne Keese of Kirkland, WA; Marsha Eslami (Hakim) of Clovis, CA; Linda Bissell of Marysville, CA; his sons Edward Melton Jr. (Debbie) of Biggs, CA; Christopher Melton (Angie) of Spanish Springs, NV; and Levi Melton (Marissa) of Gridley. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation and viewing was held at Gridley Block Funeral Chapel on Monday, December 13 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Private interment took place immediately following the Celebration of Life on December 14 with a reception also following the service at Christian Life Assembly's fellowship hall.

Arrangements were entrusted to Gridley Block Funeral Chapel. Contributions to Christian Life Assembly of God Church are suggested by the family.

MEMORIAL NOTICE

John Busch

August 31, 1941 to December 9, 2021

John Busch, of Biggs, passed away at home on Thursday, December 9, 2021.

The family will be holding funeral services to honor John, on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 2:00 pm, at the Gridley Block Funeral Home in Gridley, with a gathering to follow at The Colonia in Biggs, at 479 B Street.

John was born in Alturas, CA on August 31, 1941. He was the fifth of six children born to Gilbert and Bertha Busch. He graduated from Modoc Union High School in 1959. In 1964, he moved to Newark, CA to reside with his sister Nancy, where he was reunited with the love of his life Sharon Kay Chandler. Soon after, John and Sharon married in San Rafael on May 22, 1965. They celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary this past May. In 1968, they moved to Gridley, where they resided for more than 35 years, then moved to Biggs where he resided until his death. Their son Joe, was born in 1969 and their daughter, Julie, was born in 1973. While residing in Gridley, John was the Owner/Manager of John's 99E Garage and John Busch Automotive. He also served on the City of Gridley Planning Commission, as well as many other political positions. While residing in Biggs, John served many years on the Biggs City Council and served as Mayor of Biggs from 2004-2008.



John is preceded in death by his father Gilbert William Busch, his mother Bertha Rose Busch, his sisters Nancy Newman, Ginger Nay, and his brother Bill Busch.

John is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years Sharon Kay Busch of Biggs, his son Joe and wife Andria Busch of Biggs, his daughter Julie Busch of Gridley, his sister Beverly Hammes of Alfalfa, Oregon, his sister Billy Moore of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and his grandchildren Hannah, Alexander, and Gracie Gonzalez and Addison and Branson Busch, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Because Modoc County was his home at heart, and both John, Sharon, their kids, grandchildren and friends spent countless days enjoying all that Modoc had to offer, there will be a celebration of life, currently planned on Cedar Pass at the Busch Family Cabin in the early summer of 2022.

The entire Busch family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Brown and the entire staff of Gridley Medical Group for all of their support through these last years taking care of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Biggs City Council and to all of our family and friends who have called, text, and delivered food and gifts. We truly appreciate each and everyone of you.

Multiple Overdose Incidents at the Butte County Jail

BCSO Press Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - Over the past 10 days, Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) correctional deputies were alerted to three separate medical emergencies occurring inside three separate housing units. On all three occasions, deputies located the inmates unresponsive and exhibiting signs of opioid overdose. Each incident required multiple administrations of Naloxone. Also known as Narcan, Naloxone is a nasal spray commonly used to block or reverse the effects caused by an opioid overdose.

By quickly responding and administering the life-saving medication, correctional deputies and the medical staff effectively saved all six inmates' lives. The inmates were

transported to a local hospital for treatment following the incidents. Five of the inmates have since recovered and have been returned to the Butte County Jail. The sixth inmate is expected to make a full recovery and return to the Butte County Jail.

During one of the incidents, a correctional deputy was exposed to fentanyl. The correctional deputy was provided treatment at a local hospital and has since recovered.

Correctional deputies have conducted searches of the housing units and recovered approximately .07 grams of suspected fentanyl in powder form. Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) detectives were contacted and confirmed the powder as fentanyl. Special Enforcement Unit

(SEU) detectives decontaminated all the affected areas where fentanyl was located.

An investigation into how the substance entered the facility is being conducted, however, preliminary investigation indicates the substance was brought into the facility by inmates.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid and a Schedule II narcotic that is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. Butte County has seen a substantial increase in illicit fentanyl distribution, possession, and overdose cases.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, a lethal dose of fentanyl consists of two milligrams, equal in size to a few grains of salt. ★

Farm Bureau President Advocates Protecting Vital Agricultural Economy

California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson opened the organization's 103rd Annual Meeting on Monday with a call for climate-smart agriculture that is supported by policies that don't compromise farmers' ability to bring crops to market.

"We need to be allowed to be efficient," Johansson told Farm Bureau members, who are gathering in Orange County for their Dec. 5-8 meeting. "As we deal with climate change impacts and legislation coming down the pike, make no mistake. It is not a climate solution if you make farmers less efficient. It simply won't happen."

California farmers and ranchers are currently facing a historic drought that has resulted in severe cuts in water supplies for thousands of farms. In addition, California agriculture has been impacted by the pandemic, supply chain disruptions and wildfires.

Johansson urged protecting America's largest and most vital agricultural economy in the face of such challenges. He called for California to protect reliable water supplies for farming by building major water storage facilities overwhelmingly approved by California

voters who passed California's Proposition 1 ballot initiative in 2014.

"First and foremost, we need predictability," Johansson said. "This past year has been anything but predictable."

Johansson said California agriculture is built on foundations from the generations that preceded today's farmers and ranchers, even as agricultural production has evolved considerably over the years as it adjusts to an ever-changing marketplace, new regulations and climate and water challenges.

He called for thoughtful review of policies impacting agriculture and for Farm Bureau members in California and nationally to make their voices heard.

"There's going to be change, but it has to be directed by the experts," Johansson said. "That is us, in agriculture. That's the voice of Farm Bureau, and American Farm Bureau. We need to direct our paths and stand up, because the whole country is taking notice now."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 31,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 6 million Farm Bureau members. ★

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Thoughts to Ponder

by Kathy Neal



As far as it is possible, we are to live in an attitude and presence of peace. Right! Forget the harsh words spoken to us at work or at home. Don't retaliate against mean or hateful actions by neighbors, landlords, or co-workers.

Stop voicing discontent on social media after persons attack you and your beliefs. You've got to be kidding! People that do awful things to you deserve what they get. Being hit you hit back. Being bullied you bully back. Being stolen from go after them and make them pay. Right?

Living in peace makes you weak, a target for them to aim at or opens you up to a bounty of crushing events. How is anyone suppose to live in a world like this where old people are beaten up on the streets, young children are trafficked for money, and businesses are destroyed by rioters? How can people keep peace when evil reigns everywhere?

But we do have peace amid all the chaos. Psalm 121 can be our words to live by when we find ourselves in trouble. We can find peace and calm because "our help comes from the Lord" who made it all.

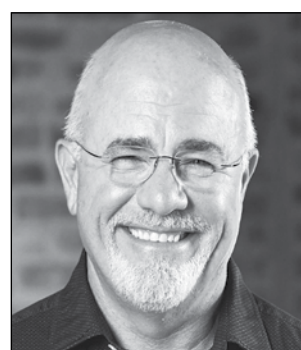
God waits for us to turn (return) to Him because He is the peacemaker, the calming element during the storms of life.

He has made a promise to be with us and calm our storms, or to walk through them with us.

In the darkness of the world, we have a guiding light to follow like a candle in a window, lighting home for a wanderer. Jesus lights the way to life, love, and peace. He is the light on a distant shore to guide a ship home.

Continue to learn about the "Prince of Peace" with all of us at the Gridley United Methodist Church as we approach the wonderful day of birth of our Savior. All are welcome! Come seek the light and peace of our Lord.

We are located at the intersection of Magnolia and Haskell Streets. Worship starts every Sunday at 10 am. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

means the most to you and write it down. You're more likely to succeed if you can focus on a single goal, and you have a greater chance of achieving it if you write it down – on paper, on purpose. And make sure the resolution you choose is very important to you. Writing down a goal just because it's what someone else is doing, or because it sounds like a good idea, isn't good enough. If your goal isn't yours, it won't happen.

Second, set benchmarks. Let's say you want to pay off your credit cards before July. You need to make that goal measurable throughout the year by setting benchmarks. If you owe \$5,000 on your credit cards and want to pay them off in six months, you need to pay about \$833 towards them every month. Write your benchmark down beneath your goal, and make a plan for how you're going to get it done.

Three, find an accountability partner. A great accountability partner isn't afraid to ask how your goals are coming along, and they'll call you on it when you're slacking. If you set a financial goal, a good accountability partner isn't going to be the friend who always asks you to go shopping. Studies have shown that

having a strong accountability partner increases the likelihood of achieving a goal dramatically.

And finally, make sure you reward yourself along the way. It's tough to stay motivated when hitting your goal takes a while. Lots of folks start out at full speed, only to see the momentum disappear over time. You might treat yourself to a night at the movies when you've paid off the first \$1,000 on your credit cards, or maybe a nice, new shirt when you've paid off half the card.

Sometimes life doesn't work out the way we think it will, Isaac. Our priorities can change, and our goals may change, too. If that's why you didn't make your resolutions happen this year, that's fine. Just don't make the mistake of thinking it's too late to change and improve your life!

– 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. 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. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Oregon was green and lush as usual. Turns out the Monet Immersion was really the Van Gogh Immersion, red face here. I'm so garden oriented I decided to mix them up. Totally different look to the art but what the heck when you think in flowers. You think of art in flowers. It turns out Van Gogh also painted flowers but usually

in vases unless they were sunflowers in the countryside. This was a wonderful experience. Every wall and special structures as well as the floor became a part of the paintings. You could experience each brush stroke up close and personal. The colors were brilliant. It hard to explain how the immersion concept was achieved. It included video, sound, quotes and animation of parts of the paintings. All of it extra large and surrounding one. Intense. For example, when his self-portraits and other portraits were shown, a whiff of smoke would curl out of a pipe, eyes would blink. In landscapes, they would fill the walls in line drawing then color would flow in. Startling and effective! My favorite was an

enlarged apple tree branch that had blossoms popping out until full then the pedals started drifting until they filled every wall and structure with grace and flow. It was exactly like what I call pedal snow in my yard. My hope is that there is a Monet Immersion at some point. I'm ready for flowing gardens, water, fish and lots of interesting playing with the paintings.

Left Oregon with rain and came home to rain and celebrated the entire ride home. Everything is looking refreshed and dewy. The oranges are glowing out from dark green leaves emphasized by gray skies. Lights decorate so many houses with cheer and delightful fun. I love this late fall time of year. ★

Dear Dietitian

Sea Salt



Commentary
by Leanne McCrate

Dear Dietitian,

I have been using sea salt for most of my cooking. It's more natural than table salt, and I believe it is a healthier alternative. My husband challenges me on this point. What do you think?

Suzanne

Dear Suzanne,

Many Americans opt for sea salt with the idea, "It is more natural, so it must be better for you." According to the American Heart Association (AHA), nearly two-thirds of Americans have tried to decrease their salt intake. Furthermore, in a survey conducted by the AHA, 61% of people believe sea salt is a lower sodium alternative to table salt.

Sea salt is made from evaporated seawater; whereas, table salt is mined from underground deposits. Table salt is processed, and in doing so, minerals are removed. Then ingredients are added to prevent clumping. Both sea salt and

table salt contain the same amount of sodium, about 40% by weight.

While it is true that sea salt contains small amounts of minerals such as potassium, magnesium, and calcium, these nutrients are plentiful in other foods. Potassium is found in oranges, potatoes, and tomatoes. Calcium is in dairy products, fortified soy and almond milk, and vegetables, such as broccoli and kale. Magnesium can be found in whole grains, spinach, and quinoa.

Iodine is added to most table salt to aid in thyroid health. Unless sea salt is fortified with iodine, it does not contain a sufficient amount to prevent thyroid problems. If you choose sea salt regularly, be sure to obtain iodine-rich foods each day in your diet. These foods include eggs, shellfish, cod, tuna, and dairy products.

The true differences in sea salt compared to table salt are its texture and taste. Sea salt has a coarse texture and a more robust flavor, and some prefer it for these reasons. The bottom line is there is no nutritional advantage of choosing sea salt over table salt.

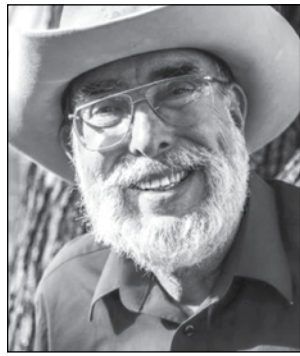
Until next time, be healthy!

Dear Dietitian

Leanne McCrate, RDN, LD, CNSC 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. Dear Dietitian does not endorse any products, health programs, or diet plans. ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY

Miracles Do



Slim Randles

It began the way most miracles do: by accident or the hand of God, take your pick.

It might have been the weather, at least partly. For winter, the day had been almost balmy and warm. You know, sweaters instead of heavy coats. No mittens in sight.

Then there were still some Christmas lights on the stores, and that little bunch of Girl Scouts out raising money in front of the Read Me Now bookstore. Jasper Blankenship was inside going through the books to fortify his cabin's library for winter and sat, listening with a smile to the girls as they laughed and waited for customers

that weren't really coming along too briskly.

"It's a shame there aren't more people out today for those girls," said Sarah McKinley, behind the counter. Jasper nodded and paid for his books, then walked out to the truck. He stopped and thought for a while, then brought out his violin, rosined the bow, and walked over to the sidewalk next to the girls.

"You girls like fiddle music?" he asked.

"Sure do."

And Jasper began playing fiddle tunes.

Carla Martinez was driving down the street, headed for the Soup 'R Market when she saw the Girl Scouts dancing with each other in front of their table to Jasper's music. Before he'd had time to finish that tune, she'd returned with her guitar and joined the fun. Jim Albertson, the local school principal, showed up with a harmonica, and he

wasn't bad at it.

Dud got out his accordion and joined in the fun.

By this time, it was getting dark in the street, and several people turned headlights on the area in front of the bookstore. Older people had joined the Girl Scouts dancing in the streets, and Delbert Chin from the Chinese restaurant across the street sent one of his girls out with a huge pot of coffee and paper cups.

The party was on.

It lasted until the cars' headlights began to wear down the batteries, but during its brief lifetime, the street dance and mid-winter party cast a blessing on us all.

It must have been the weather.

Brought to you by the genuine cowboy music and musings of Steve Cormier up in New Mexico's Sandia Mountains. Check him out at stevecormier.net. ★



Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl

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Arsonist Sentenced for Oroville Fire



Jamie Gorman

Butte County District Attorney News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - An Oroville woman was sentenced this afternoon on a charge of arson for her act of burning down an Oroville apartment complex that was under construction causing over a million dollars in damage.

Jamie Gorman, 40, of Oroville, who has been in custody since the September 9, 2021, fire, was given an additional 120 days in Butte County Jail as part of a two-year probationary time ordered by Superior Court Judge Jesus Rodriguez.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey

said Gorman plead no contest in October of this year to a felony count of arson. Ramsey said that on the evening of September 9, 2021, Oroville Police officers responded to a report of a smoke alarm at the Olive Ranch construction site of a new apartment complex at Grand Avenue and Table Mountain Boulevard. When the officers arrived to the site, officers saw smoke coming from within the structure, and discovered fire coming from within the structure, which spread rapidly to the rest of the two-story unfinished structure. Cal Fire and the Oroville Fire Department successfully put out the fully involved fire. Unfortunately, the fire not only burnt down the entire construction site, but also partially melted the wall of a nearby apartment complex and three tenants' vehicles parked nearby.

A surveillance camera on scene captured a view of Gorman entering the construction site alone. The video also showed Gorman pulling an erosion control straw wattle from the fence into the structure.

Approximately one minute after she exited the structure, smoke was visible then a glow from the fire could be seen.

Gorman told the court that she was homeless at the time of the fire and using excessive amounts of alcohol and methamphetamine. She said that at the time she set the fire she was hallucinating that the apartment complex construction was somehow a place of evil that needed to be destroyed.

In sentencing Gorman, Judge Rodriguez noted that this was her first felony conviction and that as conditions of probation, Gorman was ordered to begin a residential drug and alcohol program after her 120 days of jail, to wear a GPS ankle monitor and to register as an arson felon. The judge also ordered she pay \$1,178,688.98 in restitution to Olive Ranch Construction, as well as ordered restitution to the owners of the vehicles that were damaged. Gorman faces four years in state prison should she fail probation. ★

California's 'Tort Wars' Heating Up Again



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

One of the Capitol's most enduring conflicts pits personal injury attorneys and their allies in consumer advocacy groups against corporate interests and their insurers.

The two factions clash incessantly over what events are deemed wrongful acts (torts), who can sue over those acts and what monetary damages can be awarded.

Dubbed "tort wars," the conflict has raged for decades in the Legislature, in the courts and occasionally via ballot measures, each side depicting itself as the good guys and the other as rapaciously evil. Millions of dollars are spent each year on lobbyists, media strategists, political campaign advisors and other tools of the political trade.

The intensity of the war varies from year to year, and 2022 is shaping up as one its hotter periods as the factions propose dueling ballot measures. One would effectively undo a 1975 law that limits damages for "pain and suffering" in medical malpractice cases, while another would place a new limit on the fees that personal injury attorneys can claim.

That 1975 law, entitled the Medical Injury

Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) and signed by Jerry Brown during his first year as governor, limits non-economic damages for malpractice to \$250,000. Its passage was not only a big win for medical providers and their insurers but the opening salvo of the war.

The attorneys not only have tried — very unsuccessfully so far — to repeal or modify MICRA but have sought to expand opportunities to sue and collect damages and fees, such as allowing them to intervene in cases that ordinarily would be handled by local or state legal authorities.

Business groups and insurers, meanwhile, have not only attempted to blunt the attorneys' expansive ambition but to carry the MICRA model of damage limits into other potential injury cases.

In 1987, 12 years after MICRA was enacted, the speaker of the state Assembly, Willie Brown, mediated extensive negotiations between the warring factions on a truce, culminating in the infamous "napkin deal" worked out in Frank Fat's restaurant near the Capitol with Brown hopping from table to table.

Quickly ratified by the Legislature, it gave lobbyists for every interest involved something to take back to their clients, including a slight modification of MICRA and new protections for the tobacco industry from lawsuits by smokers for cancer and other illnesses.

The napkin deal truce lasted for a few years, but tort wars resumed in the 1990s and have been waged ever since on specific

issues, including several unsuccessful efforts to change MICRA. One subset of the conflict, involving roughly the same interests, has been perennial jousting over workers' compensation, the employer-financed, multi-billion-dollar system that covers job-related injuries and illnesses.

A ballot measure that would indirectly but effectively repeal MICRA is already qualified for the 2022 ballot even though the anti-MICRA coalition has failed repeatedly in the past to undo what the Legislature and Jerry Brown wrought 46 years ago.

Meanwhile, the Civil Justice Association of California, an umbrella organization of business and insurance interests, has unveiled its own initiative measure that would limit lawyers' contingency fees in personal injury cases to 20% of monetary judgments, sharply lower than the traditional one-third or more. The goal, obviously, is to make attorneys less willing to take on cases.

The stage is set, therefore, for the competing factions to spend tens of millions of dollars to persuade voters, which would be a tiny fraction of the many billions of dollars at stake in the outcome. And regardless of what happens next year, the immense stakes mean tort wars will continue to rage indefinitely.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★

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SPARKY'S CORNER
Stop-Drop-n-Roll

While not something we often think about, an average 4,300 people are seriously burned from their clothing catching fire every year. A popular misconception is that synthetic fabrics like polyester burn easier than natural fabrics like cotton. This is not true. Cotton and Rylan ignite faster than polyester. However, synthetic fabrics like polyester can melt and stick to your skin. Since wearing wool or special fire resistant clothing all day every day is unrealistic, CAL FIRE/Gridley Fire Department would like to offer these helpful tips to prevent burn injuries:

- Be cautious around open flames like bond fires or camp fires
- Keep a close eye on children, and don't let children run or play around open fires
- Don't be heavily intoxicated around open fires
- Don't wear hanging clothing while cooking or grilling
- Wear the proper safety equipment when welding, grinding or using a gas torch

In the event your clothing does catch on fire, DON'T run, the rushing air will only make the fire worse. Remember this: STOP, DROP, and ROLL! This is important both to teach your kids and to remember yourself since about half of all burning clothing injuries are adults.

- **STOP**, don't run
- **DROP** to the ground and cover your face with your hands
- **ROLL** back and forth on the ground to smother out the flames

Thank You, and Happy Holidays!!
Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74

Brownie's BAIT BOX
Fishing rating scale: (b) Excellent • (a) Good • (g) Poor (bad)

LOCAL FISHING

Spenceville WA; six lovely bass and crappie ponds, all within easy walking distance. #1 Horseshoe Pond; walk 5-yards off Pittman Rd. #2 Pittman Pond; easy 8-steps off Pittman Rd. #3 Little Dry Creek Pond; a ten minute stroll off Spenceville Rd. #4 Wood duck Pond; a 3-minute walk off Spenceville Rd. #5 Spring Plot Pond; same as #4 above. #6 Upper Jones Pond; crawl over the fence off Jones Rd and sashay six feet. (Eureka) Use: Fly rod Mini Poppers. (b) Secret Pond, Oroville WA; take hwy. 70 north to Pacific Heights Rd. Exit on the gravel levee road. Drive 200-yards, pond on the right. Large mouth black bass of 13-pounds caught here in 2019. Use: ? Fisherman's Comment: Brownie, you sure let the cat out of the bag on this one. Signed: Anonymous Sacramento kids ponds – CDF&W planted special Brook Trout!! Use: Worms, or Power Bait. (b)

SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA

S.F. Bay; no activity reported. Delta, Brannon Island; three 14-inch stripers caught. Use: 6-inch Top Water Plug. (g) Liberty Island; several shaker stripers. Use: Shad Bait. (g)

COASTAL WATERS

Mola Mola...(alexandrine) aka Giant Sun Fish. Found off California coast,

Giant Sun Fish

December 8, 2021. Flesh is considered a delicacy in Japan and Taiwan, including fins and internal organs. Record: 1996 507 pounds, 8'11" long. Photo. Notice the paddle board is 14 ft long. San Francisco coast Dungeness crabs; sportsmen restrictions of rings and snares only. Still working hard for nice limits. Fisherman's Comment: 5

½ " crabs of two pounds provides only ½ lbs. of meat. Live crab cost \$9.00 equals \$18.00 per lb. of crab meat. Humbolt Bay Dungeness crab; sportsmen working crab pots. Use: Chicken parts. (b) Marin Coast rock fish; Party Boats and Six-Pacs limiting on rock fish. Use: Herring Cut Bait (b)

LAKES RESERVOIRS AND RIVERS

Lake Almanor; Canyon Dam boat ramp open. Slow troll 1.5 MPH at 25-ft depths for 9-pound browns. Use: F-9 Rapala (Pond Smelt imitation) (b) Folsom Lake; still below the 400' level and 5-MPH limit. Try for bass in coves side creeks, rock piles. Use: Heddon Zaragosa Minnow (a) Pyramid Lake, Nev. High-pressure stirs ups 20lb plus cutts, near shore. Lots of boat traffic. Use: 400gr shooting head line with Tui-Chub imitation (Flesh Fly) or Popcorn Beetle. (b)

Flesh Fly

RIVER FISHING

Sacramento River, Knights Landing; chinook head shaker throws hook, but bright 17lb. and 27 lb. landed. Yes! Typically, the big 30-pounder got away? Use: Kwik-fish w/ butterflied Sardine Wrap. (a) Fisherman's Comment: "Well!, If the shoe fits, wear it." "That svelte fish was 0.784 meters long and fought me for two-bells." Signed: Skipper Bill. Napa River stripers; fish the upper river above Napa, or the lower section near the mouth at San Pablo Bay. Use: live Mud Suckers. (a) American River steelies; none caught. Use: ? (gg) Trinity River; low water raft pricing. Nice 7-8 pound steelhead. Use: Dried Nymphs under an indicator.(b)

What's all the hullabaloo about! Keep an ear to the ground.
~ Brownie

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Mandated Masks Again



The first statewide mandate was imposed in 2020 and lifted last June. Photo courtesy Pixabay

By Ana B. Ibarra, CALMatters

Starting Wednesday, (December 15, 2021) Californians will once again be required to wear masks indoors in public places regardless of vaccination status, state health officials announced today.

The renewed masking requirement follows a 47% increase in COVID-19 case rates since the

Thanksgiving holiday and the arrival of new variant, said Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state's health secretary.

The mask mandate will run through January 15 and is specific to public settings, not private gatherings. Nevertheless, health officials recommend people get tested ahead of holiday gatherings and consider better ventilation by opening windows or convening

outdoors when possible.

The mandate will mainly affect about 50% of the state population that lives in counties that currently don't have their own mask mandate, Ghaly said. Los Angeles and several Bay Area counties already have mask mandates for public settings in place.

Along with renewed mask rules, the state will also require that attendees at mega events

— those of 1,000 people or more — who are unvaccinated show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within one day, if an antigen test, or two days for PCR tests. The state is also recommending that travelers get tested before and after trips.

The first statewide mandate was imposed in 2020 and lifted last June.

After the state's June 15

reopening, vaccinated people were allowed to return to grocery stores, retail and other public settings without a mask — at least under state rules. People who were not vaccinated still had to adhere to indoor masking. Telling the difference, however, was tricky: Ghaly acknowledged today that throughout the pandemic enforcement of these rules has been a challenge. ★

Home and Community-based Care Supports Us All

Commentary
by Angela F. Williams

Every day, millions of workers enter people's homes to provide care to those with disabilities and the elderly. These "direct-care" workers assist individuals with bathing and dressing, cooking and eating, taking medication, and getting exercise. For the people they help, they are lifelines to health, independent living, and economic stability.

Yet our system for providing this care is in desperate need of repair. Medicaid serves approximately 4.8 million Americans with home- and community-based services, but there are still nearly 850,000 people on waiting lists. They often wait years for crucial support.

At the same time, direct-care workers have been underpaid for decades, causing instability in their own lives. This situation was untenable even before pandemic-induced social distancing kept these workers from fulfilling their jobs.

President Biden proposed a fix for the industry in his infrastructure plan, which would have added \$400 billion in federal spending for Medicaid's home and community-based services program. This would have provided a sorely needed boost to the caregiving economy.

Yet the president and a group of bipartisan senators dropped this aid from the "compromise" they reached and passed on infrastructure. That's deeply disappointing. Lawmakers must do everything they can to work this aid back in as a separate bill. Funding home- and community-based care for the most vulnerable Americans



The demand for home- and community-based care will only grow in the years ahead, given that one in four Americans today are living with a disability, and the average age of the U.S. population continues to rise. MPG file photo

shouldn't be a partisan issue.

The demand for home- and community-based care will only grow in the years ahead, given that one in four Americans today are living with a disability, and the average age of the U.S. population continues to rise. According to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, the U.S. population aged 74 and over is expected to increase by 48% in the next decade. And older Americans are increasingly cost-burdened. Among homeowners over age 79,

just 3% owed mortgage debt in 1989, compared to 27% by 2019.

It all adds up to a situation where more people need services but have fewer options.

The voting public recognizes this. An April poll from Morning Consult and Politico found that 76 percent of Americans support new funding to improve caregiving for people with disabilities and the elderly. And yet, some of our political leaders don't seem to see the need.

Perhaps they don't understand that care workers enable people to continue living in their own homes — or how important this is. Aid recipients prefer to be cared for in their own homes and communities, and the law obliges public agencies to do so whenever possible.

Care workers themselves also need help. Though entrusted with their clients' wellbeing, direct-care workers make \$11 an hour on average. Approximately 15% live in poverty. It's no wonder that there is 50%

turnover every year among direct-care workers.

The low wages also exacerbate gender and racial inequality, as women of color dominate the ranks of direct-care workers. And when we fail to support direct care, the burden of looking after family members typically falls to women, taking them out of the workforce.

Home- and community-based care makes it possible for millions of families to thrive. But without new expenditures, both

the workers who provide these services, and the individuals and families who rely on them, will not. Our lawmakers need to make this investment now, assuring a sustainable system of services and support for our most vulnerable citizens, their families, and the professionals who care for them.

Angela F. Williams is the president and CEO of Easterseals. This piece originally ran in the *International Business Times*. ★

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



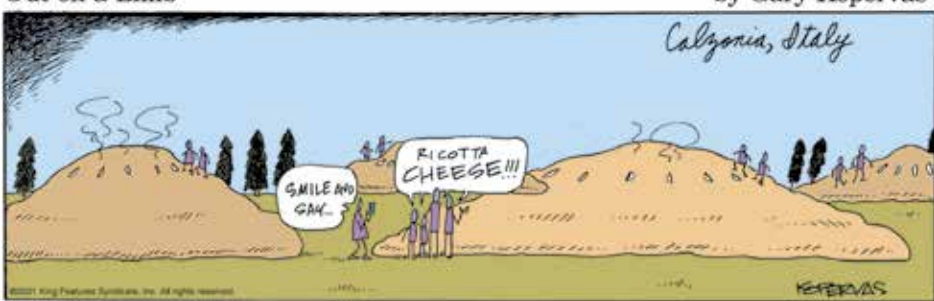
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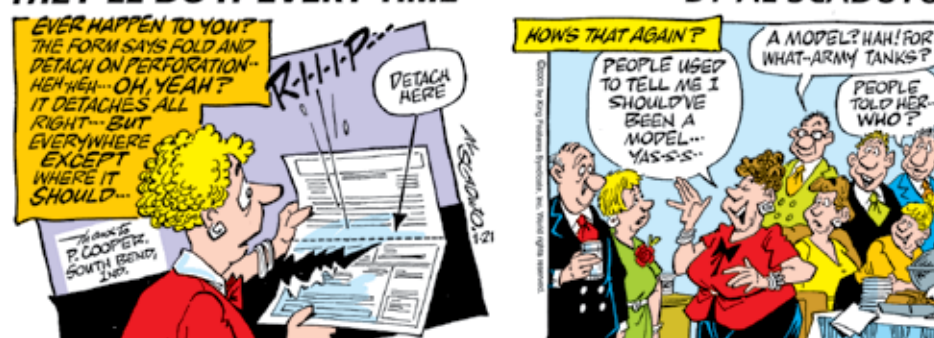
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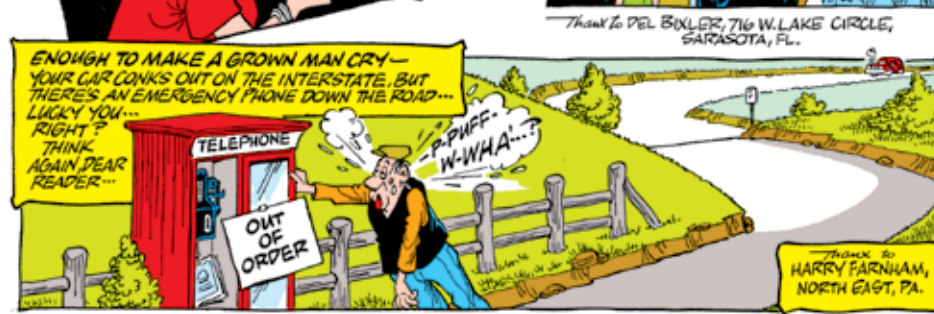


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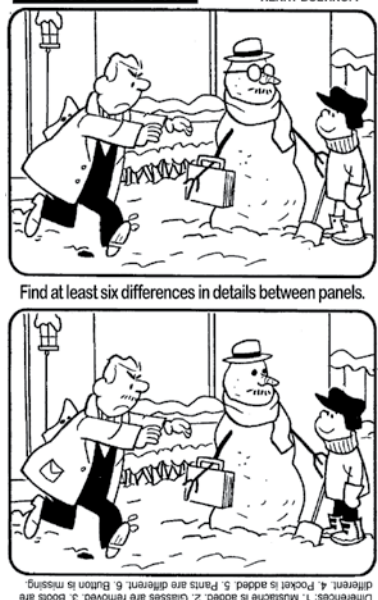
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Santa is Coming to Town!

North Pole Press Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The holidays are here! Your Gridley Fire and Police Departments used their contacts at the North Pole, along with a little Christmas magic, to invite Santa to Gridley for a special tour of our town. He is graciously taking time out of his busy holiday schedule to ride our very own Gridley Fire Engine through the city and bring extra holiday cheer to our community.

Santa would like to see everyone and will be traveling through the city over two separate evenings, December 21st and 22nd starting at 6:30 pm. For more information and the maps showing Santa's routes, visit the Gridley chamber of commerce Facebook page, the Gridley Herald Facebook page or Gridleyherald.com.

One big change from last year's tour is the route being taken. This year Santa won't be able to drive every street but will be a short walk away from every home. Please keep in mind, the event is weather permitting, and the times are subject to change. Santa understands that the safety of our community is of the utmost importance to us and while he has been successful at keeping the elves socially distanced all year long, he has requested that we take the same precautions during his visit. A great way to see Santa safely would be to lay some cozy blankets in your driveway, brew up some hot cocoa, wave to your neighbors from a safe distance while waiting for his arrival! It will be no secret when Santa will be here, just listen for the magic! ★

Care, Kindness and Community Service



FFA Advisors Ms. Maddison Albiani, FFA member Audry Johnson and FFA Advisor Matt Reed stock up on fleece for the FFA Blanket tying project. Photo provided by Matt Reed

By Barbara Ott

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - In 2020 while school activities were curtailed and social interactions for students were limited, Gridley High School FFA started a new community service project. The blankets made by students in 2020 were donated to Esplanade House in Chico. Esplanade House "provides transitional housing and intensive supportive services for homeless families with children."

This year, 2021 this project is going strong again for FFA students under the student leadership of Calista Fox and Nico Donati with guidance from teacher/advisor Matt Reed. This worthy project by young leaders has been supported by the community of Gridley and local businesses such as Gridley Packing and Gridley Country Ford as well as others. Donations for this project can be given to



These two FFA students give this project a thumbs up! Photo provided by Matt Reed



Blanket making is fun! Photo provided by Matt Reed

Gridley High School FFA people struggling with poverty to help them become more self-sustaining." This community project is an annual December project for GHS FFA. ★



You're Invited! Community Christmas Program



Members of the Gridley Seventh Day Adventist Church welcome you to come celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! Pictured left to right: John Dohmen, Randy Sloop, Christine Sloop, Karen Dohmen, Ty and Kaiser Weber. Photo provided by Cheryl Dillard

Gridley Seventh-Day Adventist Church

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley Seventh Day Adventist Church is extending a special invitation to those in our area to attend its Community Christmas Program.

All are invited to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas in this joyful program planned for Saturday, December 18th

at 7pm. Sing traditional Christmas songs! Hear the nativity story and participate in the fun of decorating a tree (ornaments provided!)

Refreshments will be provided following the main event. Please come and bring your family, friends, and neighbors. The Community Christmas Program will be held December 18th at 7pm at the Church located at 360 Indiana St., Gridley. ★

City of Live Oak UNOFFICIAL Special Election Results

By Seti Long

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - On Tuesday December 7th, the Sutter County Office of Elections held a special election on behalf of the City of Live Oak in order to fill a position on the City Council that has remained vacant since May 31, 2021.

Running for election were candidates: Jeremy Chapdelaine, Rick Dais, Cruz Mora and Alec Tika.

According to the Sutter County Clerk Recorder website, the un-official

election results as of December 8, 2021, are as follows: Jeremy Chapdelaine – 413 votes (42.36%), Cruz Mora – 272 votes (27.90%), Alec Tika – 250 votes (25.64%) and Rick Dais – 40 votes (4.10%).

Out of 4,287 registered voters, a total of 983 votes have been counted. Again, these numbers are the unofficial results of the elections. Official results will be announced by the Sutter County Clerk Recorders office after all mail-in votes have been tallied. ★

Locals Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe



Rafael Carmona participates in the local celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, an annual procession on December 12. Photo by Cindy Scott

By Cindy Scott

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Annually on December 12, whether a workday or weekend, rain or shine, members of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church gather in faith for a procession to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. A cross, a shrine, several banners, singing, and special clothing are part of the commemoration.

The celebration begins with several evening masses on December 11 and again the morning of December 12. After the final mass, procession participants begin

at the church, walk east on Hazel, south on Virginia, west on Magnolia, and north again on Oregon to the church.

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrates a series of apparitions to a young peasant man in the area of Mexico City in 1531. A young woman, identifying herself as the Virgin Mary, appeared and directed the man, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, to ask the Archbishop for a church to be erected on that site in her honor. The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe now stands at that location and is the most visited Catholic shrine in the world. ★



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