



**WorldFest Day Will be Alternative to Annual California WorldFest**  
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Happy Father's Day!



# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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FRIDAY • JUNE 18, 2021 • VOL. 141 NO. 25

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## Gridley's Special Stars Shine Bright



Gridley Special Stars get ready to take to the field at Gridley Special Track and Field Day! Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - As schools throughout our area closed the books on the last week of school, a select group of athletes came together at the Gridley Special Stars Track Day.

Usually, the Track and Field Day is held in Oroville at Harrison Stadium with multiple area schools bringing their special needs students to compete. Due to COVID-19 the county chose not to hold the special needs track and field day this year. Gridley Unified School District didn't want to fail their special athletes, so Gridley held its own track and field day, Monday, June 7th at the Gridley High School sports facilities.

Students ages K-12 participated, marching behind their school's

banner (made by Sycamore School's Leadership Class) during opening ceremonies at the GHS track. Then it was off to the races, literally.

Over 50 students participated multiple events including the 25-, 50- and 100-meter dashes, 50- and 100-meter tricycle race, relay race, an obstacle course, cornhole and other games. Parents, volunteers and teachers from McKinley, Wilson, Sycamore and Gridley High schools accompanied their students throughout the day, helping them at various stations, such as the face painting booth or photo booth or wherever needed. GHS Leadership class helped by manning some of the game stations and worked closely with the athletes to ensure a successful day.

The football field was full of

students having fun, being active and enjoying competition. Each special star was bright in their orange "Super G" shirts, and those who participated in any of the events received gold medals.

Although it was just Gridley students this year at track and field day, all appeared to be having an amazing time. Maggie Daugherty, Coordinator of Alternative & Special Education for GUSD said of this year's Special Stars Track Day, "It was amazing. Staff and parents reported liking it better than the big event as it was more personalized," and that the "students enjoyed themselves and handled themselves well. Staff were super supportive, and the reason things went so well."

Great job Gridley Special Star Athletes! ★

## Live Oak Looking for a Mayor

By Seti Long

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - At the May 19th City Council Meeting, then Mayor Luis Hernandez closed the meeting with a big announcement, his resignation as of May 31st.

He addressed his council members, "Just to let all you guys know, tonight is my last meeting as Mayor and last meeting as a member of this board." He shared his reason for leaving was that he had taken a job out of state and planned to attend law school while working. Of his time on the council, Hernandez said, "I'd like to thank everybody for the adventure of being on the board so far, and I've really enjoyed my time here. I believe it's my time to move on..." and that he hoped the recruitment of his replacement went smoothly and quickly. His last advice to council, "Put Live Oak first; that's all you gotta do."

With Hernandez self-removed from the council, the remaining Live Oak City Councilmembers would need to address the vacancy on the council and the mayoral seat swiftly. At the June 2nd City Council meeting, that topic was addressed. The council, comprised of Bob Woten, Lakhvir Ghag, J.R. Thiara and Nancy Santana, attempted a vote to fill the mayor's position. Currently serving as Vice Mayor, councilmember Santana was nominated by councilmember Woten to advance into the mayor's seat. That motion was defeated with a standstill vote of 2-2 (Woten and Santana- for, Ghag/Thiara- against). With that, Council turned to staff for advice on how to proceed.

Even though the vote denied her the permanent role, Vice Mayor Santana will act as Mayor pro tem until the position can be filled in another manner. Council was instructed by City Attorney Nicole Rosser, on their options to proceed: "Basically, the protocol moving forward when there is a vacancy by resignation, the government code 36512 provides that within 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, either fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election to fill the vacancy." Rosser informed that council could advertise for the position and select the right person from the applicants, through a process which would include being interviewed by the council. If the currently seated council could not come to a consensus on an applicant, the next move would be to hold

Continued on page 7

## Onward to Beautiful Destinations

GHS Class of 2021 Celebrates Commencement Ceremony



Gridley High School seniors patiently await at the beginning of the commencement ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo

By Joshua Porcayo

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - They have been through a lot, as Gridley High School senior and class historian, Ana Velasco, noted in her

speech during Gridley High School's commencement ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. To say that every class of 2021 missed out on a lot in 2020 is true, but the class of 2021 from Gridley

High School and surrounding communities have endured more than most. As Velasco pointed out, they've endured a potential threat of the Lake Oroville Dam collapsing, multiple

wildfires, and the difficult 2020-21 school year. But through it all, they persevered and pushed through, working hard to maintain their grade point averages,

Continued on page 3

**MEMORIAL NOTICE**

**Mark Alan McCall**

September 3, 1969 to June 7, 2021

Mark Alan McCall (radio name Mark St. John) was born on September 3, 1969, in Corpus Christi, Texas, to Sharon Link McCall and George Robert "Bob" McCall III. He passed away suddenly of unknown causes on June 7, 2021, at the age of 51 in his home in Madison, Tennessee, located in the Nashville Metro area where he had lived for the past 21 years.



Mark was raised in Gridley, California, and graduated from Gridley High School in 1988. He loved all sports and was very competitive and a strong team player. He enjoyed being on the Gridley swim team during his youth as well as pitching for the little league all stars. He also played basketball and football in high school. In later years, he was a fan of the San Francisco Giants baseball team and the San Francisco 49ers and Tennessee Titans football teams.

Mark loved music from an early age, which led to a successful radio career. During his junior year in high school, Mark started in radio at KRFD-FM (K100) in Marysville, California, working part-time on weekends as an on-air personality, and later that year moved into the full-time night slot while also serving as assistant program director and music director. By 1989, he was the on-air afternoon drive personality and program director at KCHH-FM (95.5) in Paradise, California. In 1992, he went to work briefly for Rotations Entertainment in Los Angeles, California. He worked directly for 35 record companies independently promoting new music at radio stations throughout the country. In 1993, he returned to Chico as on-air afternoon drive personality at KHSL-FM (103.5), and in 1997 moved to KALF-FM (95.7). He also had a mobile DJ business and provided his talent at many local venues, including the Crazy Horse Saloon, Scotty's Boat Landing, and Holiday Inn Molly Gunn's, as well as wedding receptions, school dances, and private parties. His big break in radio occurred in 2000, when he was offered an on-air afternoon drive position in large market radio as a sidekick and producer for his stepfather Wayne Scott (aka CC McCartney) at Nashville's WKDF-FM (103.3) where he had the opportunity to meet and interview

many country artists. Mark was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where he formed lifelong friendships. He will be fondly remembered by many for his love of music and sports and his genuine care and concern for people. He was a kind-hearted, sincere, loyal, and true friend. Despite his declining health in recent years, Mark remained very spiritual and positive and found joy in the love and support from family and friends. He was especially a proud big brother and uncle to his four nieces and five nephews. He was also very compassionate and always encouraged others who were struggling to "fight the good fight or at least keep trying, and to keep the faith." Although he will be greatly missed, we find comfort in knowing that he has merely changed addresses to a Heavenly home where he is rejoicing with loved ones who passed on before him and that we will all be reunited again one day.

Mark was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, George Robert McCall, Jr. of Yuba City, California, and Lillian Oveline Rice McCall of Gridley, California; and his maternal grandparents, Howard William Link of Texas City, Texas, and Vera McCullough Link of Houston, Texas. He was also preceded in death by his brother-in-law Matthew "Matt" Haley of Gridley, California, and childhood best friend Clay Sannar of Visalia, California. Besides his parents, he is survived by sisters Shelly McCall Mineer and husband Paul of Loomis, California; Lindsey McCall Haley of Gridley, California; Dana McCall Pettit and husband Kevin of Encinitas, California; half-sister Paige McCall Pendergrass and husband Tim of Paynes Creek, California; and many dear aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A funeral will be held on Monday, June 21, at 10 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Gridley Stake Center located at 400 Spruce Street in Gridley, followed by a graveside dedication and burial at the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery located at 2023 Highway 99 in Gridley. After interment a reception will follow at the church for all family and friends.

Arrangements entrusted to Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel, 530-846-2138.

**Gold Sox Hire New Field Manager in Brock Ragatz**

By Tommy Lininger, Yuba-Sutter Gold Sox

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Yuba-Sutter Gold Sox have hired Brock Ragatz as their new manager, the team announced on June 2nd.

Frontrunner for the position since it opened, Ragatz will replace former manager Brock Stassi who recently signed with the Long Island Ducks of the Atlantic League.

The William Jessup University Assistant Pitching Coach will have big shoes to fill following the departure of former Major Leaguer Stassi who led the Gold Sox to a Sierra Central - Montna Farms Summer Series Championship last summer in his first season with the club.

"I'm very confident we've hired the right guy for the job" Gold Sox General Manager Tommy Lininger said in a statement. "In the short time we've been working together Brock has shown outstanding character and leadership qualities.



I think he's a great fit for our organization."

The 24-year-old Sioux Falls, South Dakota native threw all 4 years for the Northern State University Wolves before making his way out west to take a position with William Jessup. Ragatz has spent the last three years with the Lincoln Potters and is well equipped to lead a team in a league of this caliber.

Commenting on the move, Ragatz said "I'm

extremely blessed to be given the opportunity to lead the Gold Sox for the summer. As a part of the Lincoln Potters organization, it was always a thrill coming up to Marysville and getting to play in front of such a loyal fan base. I am looking forward to spending the summer in the Yuba Sutter community".

Capacity is limited to 1,000 fans and tickets are on sale at goldsox.com. Tickets are expected to sell out. ★

**MEMORIAL NOTICE**

**Dan Lolmaugh**

June 20, 1950 to June 15, 2021

A celebration of life will be held at a later date for Dan Lolmaugh, 70 of Gridley. He passed away on Tuesday June 15, 2021 in Gridley. Dan was born on June 20, 1950 in Marysville, CA, the only child born to Raymond and Norma Lolmaugh.

He was a longtime resident of Gridley, having worked as a heavy equipment operator for PG&E and Kragen/O'Reilly Auto Parts. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and auto racing. He loved music. He was known as a kind hearted person and was a friend to many. Dan was a member of the Gridley Lions Club.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, and his wives Jacquie and Oleta. He is survived by his three children; Heather (Matthew) Ellis of Harmony, North Carolina, Reese (Kelly) Lolmaugh of Biggs, CA, and Matthew Lolmaugh of Sutter, CA.

The family requests contributions to the Gridley Lions Club in Dan's honor. Arrangements entrusted to Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel.

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# Onward to Beautiful Destinations

*Continued from page 1*  
working hard with their athletics, all the while making some of the best memories to be made in high school.

The commencement ceremony began with Gridley High School Principal, Justin Kern, making opening remarks to the cheers and

applause of everyone in attendance. Cameron Carr and Emily Ruiz welcomed everyone before Grace Pantaleoni instructed the presentation of the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Collette Hansen and Marysa Taylor sang The Star-Spangled Banner in such eloquent harmony it gave

everyone in attendance goosebumps. Principal Kern gave his commencement speech before Velasco spoke about the class of 2021's past four years at Gridley High School. Kayllen Barnette, who finished at the top of the class, gave a theme speech providing advice to incoming high

schoolers, her classmates, and about not stressing over the future, to "enjoy the now."

The class of 2021's valedictorians were: Kayllen Barnette, Cameron Carr, Harjot Gakhal, David Galindo, Grace Pantaleoni, Alejandro Alvarez, Emily Ruiz, Jose Martinez, Gaoxershia Thao,

Kennedy Tull, and Ana Velasco. The salutatorians for this year were: Ciah Moran, Marysa Taylor, Grant Tull, and Arly Santana.

Congratulations to Gridley High School's class of 2021. "Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations." ★



Gridley High School seniors, Grant Tull and Kennedy Tull, pose with their parents, who are Gridley High School faculty, before the commencement ceremony began on Friday, June 11, 2021. Pictured left to right: David Tull, Kennedy Tull, Grant Tull, and Jodie Tull. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo



Gridley High School senior boys pose for a picture before their commencement ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo



Gridley High School seniors, Collette Hansen and Marysa Taylor, sing the Star-Spangled Banner during the commencement ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo



Gridley High School seniors throw their caps in celebration at the conclusion of the commencement ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo



Gridley High School seniors pose for a picture before their commencement ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo

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# Live Oak High Graduation Gets 100!

By Seti Long

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)**-There are a lot of things that make the now graduated Live Oak High School Class of 2021 special – over 18 students received Perpetual Awards, a whopping 36 scholarships were granted to one or more students, not to mention the way they met and overcame the challenge of COVID-19, while excelling.

The beloved Principal of LOHS, Principal Tony Walton, added another item to that list. As he amped up the crowd at Live Oaks Graduation Ceremony, June 3rd, Principal Walton dropped the fact that the Class of 2021 was in fact, the 100th class to

graduate from Live Oak High School.

As graduates anxiously awaited their turn to march through the purple and gold arches to their spot on the graduate stage, Principal Walton did what he does best. He exclaimed, you're getting "raw unfiltered Mr. Walton right now!!" as he spoke candidly and from the heart to the graduating class about what L.O.H.S meant to him and his hopes for his students. The letter "L" stood for love and the ability to laugh at oneself and their mistakes. Principal Walton said the letter "O" stood for "Don't be ordinary, be original in whatever you do." With the letter "H" Principal Walton challenged his students to "don't ever fade from being

honest", honorable and humble. And lastly, Principal Walton declared that "S" stood for showing gratitude and serving others.

As graduates flooded the stage from both sides of the field, and commencement ceremonies got fully underway, the crowd was privileged to hear a from multiple student speakers, featuring multi-language translations, leading up to the grand speeches of Salutatorian Shaniya Chand and Valedictorian Komal Gill.

Throughout the ceremony, it was clear the relationships between the graduates of the class of 2021 and their educators were incredibly strong, like family. And with proud families filling the stands and

socially distanced field seats, nearly 130 students crossed the stage to receive their diplomas and officially graduate into the great wide world.

Principal Walton said, "We, and I speak for the entire staff of Live Oak High School, have come to know this class very well, have seen them grow into wonderful young men and women. We are extremely proud of them, and we know that their future is full of endless opportunities to grow and excel. We would like to acknowledge them for their many accomplishments during these last four glorious years at Live Oak high. This is the class of high achievers." ★



Live Oak Graduates enjoyed a fun-spirited, enjoyable graduation ceremony. Photo by Seti Long



Graduates lined both sides of the football field, preparing to march through festive arches and into their futures. Some are nervous, some are ready! Photo by Seti Long



LOHS beloved Principal Walton's sincere wishes for all his students touched their hearts, made them laugh and reminded them that they are LIONS! Photo by Seti Long



Translation services were provided by these lovely graduates for guests speaking Spanish and Punjabi. Photo by Seti Long

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# Gridley Thumbs and Roots



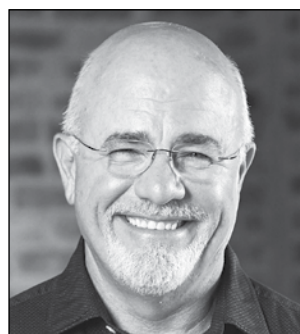
By Barbara Ott

Backyard bird watching is We're sneaking up on the Summer Solstice. It's nice to have some Spring-like temperatures leading up to the Solstice. I was feeling very cranky about the previous heat that felt too much like Summer. Thanks to those temperatures we've picked our first tomato, our first bunch

of green beans and have started the Great Zucchini Give-Away. I picked a large handful of blueberries for the first time. I put them in last year and I have great expectations for next year. The Apriums are abundant and should be ready to pick soon. A whole bunch of onions are drying in our orange tree. We had a stellar Artichoke crop this year and not an aphid to be seen. It was a wonderful treat to have bug free Artichokes.

Vegetable gardens are so different from year to year. Last year we had an abundance of asparagus then asparagus aphids attacked. They ate right into the crowns and killed some of the roots. We had asparagus but we decided to let it go to strengthen the roots

for next year. We had a gazillion wonderful Carrots last year and this year they are so-so. It looks like the Pepper plants I started are going to do really well. In my opinion the plants you start in your own environment are stronger and better adapted to your garden than are the store-bought plants. We have Potatoes that should be getting ready soon. Although I mainly pick and cook the vegetables, I always love the effort put in by my beloved to grow them. He also spends a lot of time swearing and pulling weeds. He did lay down weed cloth in some areas so this job is reduced this year. I bet he covers more areas with shade cloth next year. May the Solstice be kind to all of you. ★



## Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Aaron

Just remember the debt snowball – pay off your smallest to largest. In your case, that means knocking out the credit card debt completely, and then attack the car loan with a vengeance. It will be a lot easier once you're rid of that credit card debt. A \$10,000 car with a \$45,000 income isn't unreasonable, but don't mess around and let that note hang around longer than absolutely necessary.

My rule of thumb when it comes to things with motors, wheels – I'm talking about big toys, here – is when they're all added together, they shouldn't equal more than half your annual income. You don't want that much money wrapped up in things that are going down in value.

You're in no danger of that here, but at this point you're so close to being debt-free you can practically taste it.

Follow the plan, Aaron. And stay focused and intense about becoming debt-free. You're almost there!

– 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.* ★

### Smallest to Largest

Dear Dave,

I'm on Baby Step 2, and I'm working hard to get out of debt. My last two debts are \$6,000 on a credit card, and \$10,000 on a car loan. I'll be receiving a \$6,000 bonus at work in a couple of weeks, and I was wondering what to do with the money. I'm single, and I make about \$45,000 a year, so should I sell the car and get rid of some debt that way, or use the extra money to completely pay off the credit card debt?

– Aaron

# Thoughts to Ponder

by Kathy Neal



can not be measured in \$\$\$\$\$. Time and energy spent developing a mind and soul cannot be measured in wealth, but in future developments of others.

Almost everyone has said at one time or another, "I'll do that when I get around to it." Time is valuable. Time is short. Time is something we cannot stop or change. What time we have left on earth needs to be spent in doing things that count. We should develop a set of values so that the world will continue to work and survive.

God gives us talents in various degrees so that we may make a difference in the life of others. Having proper regard for these talents and not allowing greed or self-interest to sway us from our ultimate goal which should be our primary function as a Christian. We should be meeting the needs of others, wiping the tears of a child, or holding the hands of the suffering. These Christian actions should be above the hours spent

earning wages or obtaining material collections.

Life is so valuable, and it can come to a close so quickly. Let us spend all the days, hours, and minutes we have on earth loving others, caring for the needs of our fellow man, and finding how we can extend the lives of others through Christian work. Christ our Lord came as an example how to win souls. He did not bring a book on how to win friends and influence others. He taught and lived life as a servant, not an earthly king. By His example, may we all become better followers and doers of God's way. May we recognize that all we have and all we are comes from God. Let us all pursue the goal of Christ-like-living..

As it says above the door to our sanctuary, "Servant's Entrance". Come join us in serving Christ and others, we are His servants. The Gridley United Methodist Church meets Sundays at 10 am. We are located at the corner of Magnolia and Haskell Streets. ★

# Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY

## Heard it on the News



Slim Randles

We knew it was coming when Bert came into the Mule Barn truck stop the other day. He took his usual stool at the philosophy counter and world dilemma think tank, where he reigns as Cutting Edge Technology Advisor to the board of directors.

It was that glint in his eye that gave it away.

"Hi Bert."

"Hi Doc. Say, isn't this a beautiful day? It's 32 out there."

"Doesn't seem that cold," said Steve, our resident cowboy, who tends to look at everything from the back of a horse.

"Oh, not 32 degrees, dear friend ..."

Dear friend? We're in for it.

"... but 32 inches of mercury in the barometer. Winds are calm. Sun is shining. No chance of snow."

"You have a barometer?"

"Oh yeah. You can't always depend on the TV weather guy, you know. You see, it's not just where the barometer is that tells you what the weather's like, but it's where it is now in relation to where it was before. That's what they call the trend."

"Heard that word before," said Doc.

"It's scientific. Got a book about it the other day. Maizie picked it up at the library. You see, to the layman, the world outside looks kinda nice, doesn't it? Sunshine, no wind. Looks like a beautiful day. But to the expert ... to the meteorologist ... that's just the start. Oh

yes. He'll look outside at the beautiful weather, but he realizes it's simply a precursor to the weather we'll have tomorrow. He'll know, you see, from how the mercury is responding in the glass ... we call the barometer a glass ... what kind of weather to expect tomorrow. That's what sets us apart from other people."

"Because you read a book?"

"... And I have my weather station ... yes."

"So what kinda weather is coming tomorrow, Bert?"

"Oh ... 'bout like today."

"So the barometer told you that?"

Bert looked a little sheepish. "I didn't have time to figure it out. Heard it on the news."

*Brought to you by the book River Runs Through Me by Mark Henry Miller. www.markhmillers.wordpress.com.* ★

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**Governor of California - Gavin Newsom**  
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**(916) 445-2841**

**District 1 Representative - Doug LaMalfa**  
 506 Cannon House Office Building  
 U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515  
**(202) 225-3076**

**District 3 California Assemblyman - James Gallagher**  
 2060 Talbert Drive, Suite 110, Chico, CA 95928  
**(530) 895-4217**

**District 4 California Senate - Jim Nielsen**  
 State Capitol, Room 3070, Sacramento, CA 95814  
**(916) 651-4004**

1453 Downer Street, Suite A, Oroville, CA 96965  
**(530) 534-7100**

# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Church Pastors are burning out at an alarming rate. When you run up against some of the cultural trends in America today, it is no wonder that the good men and women of the cloth have their hands full when their job is to lift up the hands of those in need. According to U.S. Census data, the rate of Americans saying they are anxious or depressed is “in excess of 20%.” The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found that more than 81,000 overdose deaths occurred nationally between 2019 and 2020 – the highest in any 12-month period ever measured. A University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation study reports that 23% of adults over the age of 50 who drink alcohol drink at least three glasses of alcohol at a time on a daily basis. CDC data also shows that 156,242 Americans died due to alcohol, drugs, or suicide in 2019, a record number of such deaths in a single year. All signs of people struggling to find meaning and purpose in their lives. There seems to be no correlation between how much the government spends on mental health and wellness - and positive results or a change in the trend. There is ever more evidence that no amount of money can take the place of loving, supportive relationships in connected groups of people, something commonly referred to as a “family.” Pastors used to step

in when a “family” could not keep up with the challenges of life. The church “family” would step in with volunteers who would take in children, donate food or clothes, lend some help with job seeking and problem-solving. In recent years, government programming has undermined the family, and the government has yet to achieve outcomes better than the system it is trying to replace - at 100 times the cost. The brunt of these failing social outcomes get laid at the feet of a local priest. He or she has a reduced army of volunteers and a swelling wave of mental, emotional, financial, sexual, psychological - spiritual problems. A recent survey of ministers has found that 80% of pastors feel ministry has negatively affected their families, 65% of pastors don’t have one trusted friend, 58% of pastors feel they are not qualified to lead their church anymore, 50% of seminary graduates leave the ministry in the first five years, 33% of pastors currently self identify as “in burnout,” and 1500 pastors are leaving the ministry every month in the United States. Aside from dealing with the cultural trends listed above, small church group leaders face the daily expectations that people have of them. There is a constant pressure to walk into every situation and be the person who remains calm, cool, confident, with all of the answers delivered with witty charm, correct undisputed scripture, and a cute story. Pastors are not allowed to go to the hospital when someone is dying and have a breakdown. They are not allowed to have financial problems as they counsel their parishioners about financial issues. Everyone assumes that the pastor and his wife never have intra-marriage spats. When

we call the clergy, we expect someone who has it all figured out all of the time, and that can really make a person feel isolated. Once again, the question arises, who is the Chaplain to the Chaplain? Todd Rettberg and retired Senator Jim Brulte have been expanding a pastor care program to help provide support to the men and women who wake up every day wanting to repeat the significant accomplishments of Jesus Christ. The effort is called Standing Stone, Shepherding Shepherds. They organize retreats for pastors and their families and arrange programs to give these people the kind of love, service, and space they give other people, and they teach them how to get help without feeling like a failure for needing a lift. The ministry for many small churches (and 90% of churches are small churches) is a commitment to a lifetime of difficult service; it only makes sense that the machine of good works needs a little maintenance and repair every once in a while. Religion and religious organizations have done so much good in the world; we should not let the infrastructure wear out. Historically in America, churches promulgate important values like kindness and tolerance, promoting ethics and moral conduct, inspiring personal strength and courage to do the right thing, creating community connections and belonging, and inspiring millions of people to acts of selfless service. Thank you to Todd and Jim for reminding us that sometimes the “people helpers” need some help as well.

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Josh F.W. Cook is an educator and public administrator. His columns appear weekly in the Gridley Herald. ★

# Newsom Owes Apology for EDD’s Failings?



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters

Were Gov. Gavin Newsom as humble as he often proclaims to be, he would interrupt his “California Comeback” campaign long enough to issue a personal apology to hundreds of thousands of Californians who remain mired in the managerial meltdown at the Employment Development Department.

Yes, as Newsom constantly reminds us, the threat from COVID-19 has diminished and the state’s battered economy is slowly recovering. Nevertheless, California has the nation’s second highest unemployment rate and well over a million California workers are still jobless, many of whom qualify for unemployment insurance benefits — if they can ever get their applications resolved.

Journalists who write about economic issues, including yours truly, receive steady streams of emails from frustrated claimants who can’t get their calls answered and/or have their benefits frozen for reasons that are never explained.

A lengthy message from “Lindsay” typifies the sad syndrome. She worked for a travel agency before being

laid off last year and has been dealing with the EDD bureaucracy, or trying to deal, ever since, even after returning to parttime work. One passage:

“It wasn’t until April 22nd that I got my back pay for the previous 6 1/2 weeks I went without a dime. Mind you during this time I had lost my car insurance 2x, missed being able to celebrate Christmas or buy gifts, couldn’t pay rent or really eat. I barely take home \$600 twice a month from work too. “After the last back pay I received it wasn’t even a full week before realizing I had not received any money from EDD. I guess because I had this \$1,500 in back pay that was deposited. I hadn’t really calculated the fact that I was missing 2 of my weeks that I just certified for and logged in to my (unemployment insurance) account to see that EDD had randomly disqualified me for 2 weeks of pay without any reasoning, no information sent to me or emailed, and this occurred without notifying my employer.

The problems with EDD first surfaced 14 months ago, when the economy was shutting down due to Newsom’s emergency orders, and Newsom promised to fix them. “We have to meet the moment,” he told reporters then. “We have to provide more support.”

In fact, however, the glitches continued and became steadily worse. The most recent EDD bulletin says it has a backlog of nearly 230,000 unresolved claims, a number that has

been growing lately, not shrinking.

When Newsom launched his California Comeback campaign with a lavishly choreographed State of the State speech in March, he obviously meant it to blunt a recall campaign aimed at short-circuiting his political career.

He touted progress on dampening the pandemic and rebuilding the economy and closed with “Our hopeful vision of our brighter future is the basis for the decisions we make today. We place faith over fear — optimism over pessimism. The power is in our hands.”

Newsom did not, however, even mention the never-resolved crisis at EDD that he had promised to repair nearly a year earlier. The revised state budget he unveiled in May does mention it, saying blandly, “The pandemic has exposed many of EDD’s antiquated processes and outdated infrastructure, resulting in a delay or inability for many Californians to access (unemployment) benefits.”

Duh. Everybody, including Newsom, knew that more than a year ago. Subsequently, EDD managed to hand out billions of dollars to fraudsters while jobless workers like Lindsay have suffered economic stress because he didn’t make good on his promise, which is why he owes them a humble apology.

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

# City of Gridley Sets Dates for Budget Study Sessions

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The City of Gridley is preparing for the 2021-2022 Budget and is planning to hold study sessions to incorporate public feedback.

Finance Director for the City of Gridley, Elisa Arteaga polled the Gridley City Council on which dates would work best for preliminary budget study sessions to review operating and preliminary capital budgets, to receive

comment from the public and staff and to further understand operating challenges and the city’s fiscal condition.

Arteaga shares that this year, the city will be using a 7-point system to strategically plan each budget “internally within departments down to finance budget teams.” This includes meeting with the internal budget team, meeting with each individual department and department head, along

with meeting with the finance director and city administrator. The refinement of each department’s budget throughout the 7-step system culminates with the final draft of the 2021-2022 budget being brought before council for a vote.

Dates for the preliminary budget study sessions were approved by Council and have been set for Thursday, June 17th and Friday, June 18th at 6:00 pm. ★

# Sunday Fire Shut Down by CALFIRE

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A fire that broke out shortly after 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 13th quickly caught the attention of CALFIRE Butte County Fire Department as they raced to contain the blaze before it could burn out of control.

The fire was ignited somewhere along Deniz Brothers Road, next to the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery. The CALFIRE incident report says, “Firefighters arrived at scene to a 4-acre grass fire burning at a dangerous rate of spread in tall grass. The Incident

Commander quickly ordered additional engines and began a direct attack on the fire.” Ten engines/trucks alongside four water tenders and a bulldozer responded to the blaze.

As a large plume of smoke rose above Gridley, a crew of 36 Firefighting personnel worked diligently to stop the forward spread of the blaze, utilizing a bulldozer to contain the burn to the 63 acres.

According to the incident report there were no injuries reported or structural damage. CALFIRE says that the cause of the fire was a grinding operation that did not have proper clearance to operate. ★

# Joe Wilson of Chico Appointed Regional Vice President for PG&E



Joe Wilson

By Paul Moreno,  
PG&E Press Release

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG)

- As part of its commitment to enhance focus on safety, security, and operational performance, PG&E announced the appointment of five Regional Vice Presidents and the appointment of Jerry L. Davis as Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer.

The announcement of the regional leaders marks a milestone in PG&E’s plan to move to a regional service model, as outlined in its Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization and its Updated Regionalization Proposal filed February 26, 2021, with the California Public Utilities Commission. PG&E had committed to appoint a regional leadership team by June 1, 2021.

“We have assembled a strong and experienced group of leaders who will live and work in the communities they serve. This will position them to better understand and address the challenges unique to their regions. In doing so, they will have the full support of PG&E’s executive leadership and the

functional expertise of our 25,000 coworkers. I know they’re eager to settle in and get to work, and I’m excited to welcome them to the team,” said PG&E Corporation Chief Executive Officer Patti Poppe.

Joe Wilson of Chico is appointed to Vice President for the North Valley & Sierra Region. Wilson joined PG&E in 2012 and currently serves as Director, Community Rebuild and Resiliency Program. In this role, he has led financial planning, engineering, customer strategy, stakeholder engagement, and construction for the regional rebuilding program in Butte County, which was created in response to the impact of the Camp Fire in late 2018. Previously, he was the Regional Local Public Affairs Manager based in Sacramento, where he headed emergency response coordination with state and local agencies during wildfires, floods, and storms, and served as Liaison Officer during the North Bay, Carr, Camp Fire. He joined PG&E as a Senior Government Relations Representative in the Northern Sacramento Valley and Sierra Region after working with public utilities in Plumas County and Indian Valley. He has been active as a volunteer for civic and community organizations focused on employment, education, and economic development.

The Regional Vice

Presidents will report to Marlene Santos, Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, and will be accountable for delivering high-quality performance and for ensuring the safety, availability, and reliability of regional operations. These leaders will be based in their assigned regions, enabling them to stay closely connected with local customers, business organizations, local counties and cities, and other community groups and be responsive to their concerns. Each Regional Vice President will be supported by a local team that will include a Regional Safety Director charged with monitoring and improving safety performance across their assigned regions and partnering with functional leaders to ensure consistency across the company. All Regional Vice Presidents are scheduled to assume their new roles effective June 1, with the exception of Mr. Simes, who starts July 6.

To ensure a diverse slate of candidates for these new positions, PG&E performed a competitive national search, considering both internal and external candidates. The individuals selected were identified as the best qualified based on their skills, experiences, and leadership capabilities, including a deep understanding of utility operations and demonstrated success in building strong relationships with customers and communities. ★

# Nevada County Fairgrounds is Now Hiring

Nevada County Fairgrounds  
Press Release

NEVADA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Nevada County Fairgrounds is hiring! If you are interested in working at the 2021 Nevada County Fair, plan to attend the Nevada County Fair Job Fair on Monday, June 21, from 3 – 6 pm in Main Street Center at Gate 1 at the Fairgrounds.

Fairgrounds staff will be present accepting applications and conducting interviews from 3 – 6 pm for all departments.

Available jobs include gate cashiers, ticket monitors, “red shirt” patrols, exhibit crew, ice crew, clean-up crew, and parking crew.

Working during the Fair is fast-paced, rewarding and fun! A list of job descriptions and the application are posted at NevadaCountyFair.com. Please bring a completed application with you to the Job Fair, though applications will also be available to complete onsite.

The 2021 Nevada County Fair is August 11 – 15. For information, call (530) 273-6217 or visit NevadaCountyFair.com. ★

## Live Oak Looking for a Mayor

*Continued from page 1*

Rosser cautioned that if a special election were deemed necessary, it could run about \$25,000 to hold, and council would have to act before July 30 to proceed with an election.

All Councilmembers agreed that the best way

to proceed would be to put out notice for applications for the vacancy on City Council. The motion was made by Councilmember Woten and carried 4-0.

The Notice of Intent to fill the vacancy on the Live Oak City Council is currently posted on the City of Live Oaks website.

Interested persons must submit their applications no later than June 30th, by 5:00 pm at City Hall and must be 18 or older, a registered voter and resident of Live Oak.

For more information and the application, please visit [www.liveoakcity.org/government/city-council](http://www.liveoakcity.org/government/city-council). ★

## WorldFest Day Will be Alternative to Annual California WorldFest



The Center for the Arts presents WorldFest Day, an adapted version of its annual California WorldFest celebration. This year Ozomatli will headline. Photo: Center for the Arts

### Center for the Arts Press Release

**GRASS VALLEY, CA, (MPG)** - The Center for the Arts is excited to announce that they will host Ozomatli, Pamyua, and Two Runner for WorldFest Day to take place July 17 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

In the past The Center has hosted California WorldFest, a four day global music festival featuring performers from all around the world which included activities, group dancing, and the ever-popular Indigenous Peoples Village. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, they have adapted and are pleased to present a strong lineup which will serve as an early evening concert with safety protocols in place.

Ozomatli is a popular band known for their festive and multi-cultural blend of rhythms and eclectic sound. They have toured the world many times over and most recently released their album "Juana La Cubana." Main support Pamyua is an Inuit band who have made their name in the world music scene and will encompass much of which has put WorldFest on the map: an opportunity to learn about another culture through song. In an effort to showcase talent found locally, The Center tapped the band Two Runner to open the show as they remain dedicated to booking local artists.

Taking into consideration the ongoing pandemic The Center for the Arts is intent

on letting the public know that this WorldFest will look like no other. Instead of the multi-day and multi-stage format, the concert will take place in one evening. Two food vendors will be present and artist merchandise will be for sale, however those will represent the only vendors on site.

Additionally, patrons will be seated in "pods;" this means that tickets will require that all eating and dancing must take place within the 8' x 8' pod you will be assigned upon arrival. Only VIP ticket holders will have the opportunity to select a pod within the first few rows of the seating area. At this time COVID regulations prohibit communal dancing.

To add to the experience, there will be \$35 advance drink packages available at time of ticket purchase as well as \$6 parking passes.

The Center is prepared to thank any patron who possesses tickets for 2020 WorldFest for their dedication by honoring them with a ticket to WorldFest Day; their 2020 ticket will remain valid for 2022. WorldFest Day is also a way of showing appreciation for the community who have made its festival a success in the past while looking forward to a bright future.

Camping will not be provided by WorldFest this year, so any and all camping reservations will go through Nevada County Fairgrounds. Any ticket holders with camping passes for 2020 can keep

them and use them for next year, when The Center is more optimistic about the festival returning to its former formula. Please visit <http://nevadacounty-fair.com/rv-park/> for more information on WorldFest Day camping.

Capacity will be determined by the Nevada County tier assignment at the time of WorldFest Day. At the time of this release, the county lies in the red tier so a limited number of tickets will be available. If and when we move to the orange tier more tickets will be released.

The Center for the Arts looks forward to seeing its friends and community members after what have been trying times for many.

For more information on this performance please visit [thecenterforthearts.org](http://thecenterforthearts.org) or call (530) 274-8384.

Since 2000, The Center for the Arts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization, has grown into a leading presenter of music, dance, theater, comedy, literary and visual art, and family programming, offering more than 150 events per year from its location in downtown Grass Valley. The Center recently completed a major renovation of its multiuse, 21,000-square-foot facility in downtown Grass Valley, making it a premier performing arts destination. The venue includes the Main Stage, which accommodates up to 492 guests in configurable theater seats and up to 700 patrons for dance shows, and a 90-seat studio theater. ★

## Cold-Water Hazards Require Caution as Spring Snowmelt Accelerates

By Paul Moreno,  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG)** - Despite the dry year, outdoor recreationists who enjoy California rivers and streams should remain aware of dangerously cold swiftly moving water. Although California's snowpack is about half of normal, rising temperatures are accelerating the snowmelt.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) urges those who choose to venture near or in water to take extra precautions, especially around hydroelectric facilities and dams, where water flows can change rapidly. Anglers also are encouraged to take precautions as trout season has opened for most California rivers.

"Public safety is our most important responsibility. We encourage everyone recreating in or near water to plan at all times how they can quickly and safely escape in case of changing water flows and cold temperatures," said Jan Nimick, PG&E vice president of Power Generation.

Despite the dry year, snow runoff is expected to continue into early summer. Most California rivers are fed by snowmelt, making them cold even in summer. Simple actions such as recognizing if the water is too cold or swift, knowing your limits, wearing a life jacket and simply not entering the water when conditions seem unsafe can save lives.

Below are some water safety tips:

**Stay Out and Stay Alive** - Stay Out of Canals and Flumes - Recreating in PG&E canals and flumes is strictly prohibited. Stay off elevated flumes and out of these water conveyances, regardless of who owns them, as they are very dangerous due to slippery sides and fast-moving cold water. Be mindful of signs and warnings. Stay out of areas that are signed as restricted, fenced off or buoy-lined.

**Know the Risks** - **Prevention** is the best way to save a person from drowning. By the time a person is struggling in the water, a rescue is extremely unlikely and places the rescuer at risk. **Sudden immersion in cold water** can stimulate the "gasp reflex," causing an involuntary inhalation of air or water. It can even trigger cardiac arrest, temporary paralysis, hypothermia and drowning. When faced with swift water, even the strongest swimmers can be

easily overwhelmed. **Cold water entering the ear canal** can cause vertigo and disorientation. This can confuse swimmers, potentially causing them to venture deeper into the water. **Cold water also reduces body heat** 25 to 30 times faster than air does at the same temperature and causes impairment that can be fatal.

**Learn About Self-Rescue Techniques** - If you do fall into the water, here are some survival tips: **Don't panic.** Try to control your breathing; don't gasp. A sudden, unexpected fall into cold water causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex. It takes less than one-half cup of water in a person's lungs to drown. If you remain calm, you have a greater chance of self-rescue. **If you have a boat, stay with it.** It will help you stay afloat and will be seen more easily by rescuers. If it's capsized and a portion of the craft is above water, try to climb on top. **Stay afloat** with the help of a life jacket, regain control of your breathing and keep your head above water in view of rescuers. If possible, **remove heavy shoes.** Look for ways to increase buoyancy such as by holding onto seat cushions or an ice chest. If you're in the water with others, **huddle together facing each other** to help everyone stay afloat and keep warm. If you do fall into a river without a life jacket, keep your feet pointed downstream and turn onto your back. If you fall into the water with waders on, roll onto the shore. Wear a belt with waders.

**Know your Limits** - Swimming in open water is more difficult than in a swimming pool - people tire more quickly and can get into trouble. Many unseen obstacles can be lurking below the water's surface - this is especially the case during spring and early summer snowmelt. Rising water can make these obstacles even more treacherous. Guided trips for inexperienced paddlers are recommended.

**Wear a Coast Guard-approved Life Jacket** - Conditions change quickly in open water and even the best swimmers can misjudge the water and their skills when boating or swimming.

**Adult Supervision** - Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water, giving them your undivided attention. Do not assume that someone is watching them. Appoint a designated "water watcher," taking turns with other adults. Use the buddy system and never swim alone. ★

## Plumas National Forest Fire Use Restrictions

Forest Service Press Release

**QUINCY, CA (MPG)** - Fire use restrictions are effective as of June 15, 2021, within the Plumas National Forest (public land), according to Chris Carlton, Forest Supervisor.

### Fire Use Restrictions

(1) You may not build, maintain, attend, or use a fire, campfire or stove fire except in the designated recreation sites noted in Exhibit A of the PNF Forest Order #05-11-00-21-09. *Note: campfires must be built within agency installed & approved fire pits within the designated recreation sites.*

However, lanterns and portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed outside of designated recreation sites as long as the forest visitor has a valid California Campfire Permit, available online at: [www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit/](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit/).

(2) No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building, designated recreation site (Exhibit A), or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

(3) No welding or operating acetylene or other torch with an open flame. Some people may be exempt from

these restrictions if they have been specifically allowed by the Forest Service via a permit or approved plan of operations or if they are a member of any Federal, State, local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of official duty.

Persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on the PNF are exempt from #1 & 2 above, while they are at their recreation residence.

Information about fire restrictions on private land (regulated by the CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)) may be found at: <http://www.calfire.ca.gov>

### Woodcutting

Woodcutting is currently allowed within the Plumas National Forest (public land) if the daily fire indices permit. To determine if woodcutting is permitted on a given day, call (800) 847-7766 prior to cutting wood. A recorded message will notify woodcutters if the next day is hoot-owl (no cutting after 1 pm), open all day (no restrictions), or no woodcutting allowed that day.

*Note: call before 4:30 pm on the day you plan to cut as the message is updated for the following day at about that time.* ★

## World-Class Music Returns to Tiny Camptonville



Sarah Cahill

Jesse Golden,  
Camptonville Comm.  
Center Advocates

**CAMPTONVILLE, CA (MPG)** - In the tiny unincorporated town of Camptonville, a world-class music series returns this summer, curated by renowned musician Terry Riley.

On Saturday June 26, Sarah Cahill, nationally acclaimed New Music pianist, will perform compositions by Terry Riley on his own Kingsbury upright piano, in addition to works by Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Margaret Bonds, Emahoy Tsegué-Marywam Guébrou and Meredith Monk.

The concert takes place at the Camptonville Community Center, a former Masonic

hall now being renovated by the community. Doors open at 5:30 pm, and the concert begins at 6 p.m.; late arrivals will be seated at program intervals. Community health guidelines will be observed.

Terry Riley is an American composer and performing musician best known as a pioneer of the minimalist school of composition. Influenced by jazz and Indian classical music, his music became notable for its innovative use of repetition, tape music techniques, and delay systems. Since 2017, Riley has curated the Sri Moonshine Music Series, bringing world-renowned musicians to perform at Camptonville's Community Center.

Sarah Cahill, hailed as "a sterling pianist and an intrepid illuminator of the classical avant-garde" by the *New York Times* and "a brilliant and charismatic advocate for modern and contemporary composers" by *Time Out New York*, has commissioned and premiered over sixty compositions for solo piano. Composers who have dedicated works to Cahill include John Adams, Terry Riley,

Frederic Rzewski, Pauline Oliveros, Julia Wolfe, Yoko Ono, Annea Lockwood, and Ingram Marshall. Keyboard Magazine writes, "Through her inspired interpretation of works across the 20th and 21st centuries, Cahill has been instrumental in bringing to life the music of many of our greatest living composers." She was named a 2018 Champion of New Music, awarded by the American Composers Forum (ACF).

The 2021 series lineup, in addition to Cahill, will feature a July concert with Gyan Riley and Peppino D'Augustino, and an August concert with Thollem.

Tickets (\$25) (\$20 for Community Center members) for the Cahill concert are available at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5140692](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5140692). The Camptonville Community Center is located at 15333 Cleveland Avenue in Camptonville, 25 miles north of Nevada City, California on Highway 49, and can be reached at [cvillecommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:cvillecommunitycenter@gmail.com), or at 530-288-5016. ★

# Dear Dietitian

## Cancer and Nutrition



Commentary  
by Leanne McCrate

Dear Readers,

Today I am writing about a topic near and dear to my heart: nutrition and cancer, or more pointedly, nutrition myths and cancer. My clinical experience included twelve years of oncology nutrition in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Good nutrition can help prevent some types of cancer, and not surprisingly, it is the same diet that helps prevent other diseases, such as heart disease and stroke. You've heard it before and read it in this column: Eat lots of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Choose mono- and polyunsaturated fats. Eat more plant foods.

Conversely, there is a lot of misinformation on nutrition, especially when it comes to cancer. Cancer patients are sometimes afraid and vulnerable, which may make them susceptible to nutrition quackery. Remember, we live in a "let the buyer beware" society, and there is nothing in the First Amendment that requires free speech to include the truth.

These are just a few myths involving nutrition and cancer:

1. Sugar feeds cancer. This statement is misleading. The real question is, "Does sugar make your cancer worse?" The answer is no.
2. A ketogenic diet does not involve glucose (sugar), and so starves the cancer tumor. There is no scientific research to support the previous statement. The truth is our bodies must have glucose to survive. If we don't consume it in our diet, our bodies will make glucose from

fat or protein in a process known as gluconeogenesis.

3. Consuming an alkaline (high pH) diet will cure cancer. Supposedly, alkaline foods (including baking soda) and alkaline water neutralize a cancer-friendly acidic environment. The truth is the pH of our blood is always slightly alkaline. It doesn't matter what the pH of your food or drinking water is; your body will always maintain a pH balance of about 7.2.

4. Vitamin D prevents cancer. According to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, an internationally renowned facility in New York: "Intake of vitamin D through diet may protect against breast or colorectal cancers or affect markers for prostate cancer. However, vitamin D by itself does not prevent or treat cancer. Other large studies show that high vitamin D levels do not reduce the risk of many other cancers and may increase the risk for pancreatic or aggressive prostate cancers."

5. An all-vegetable diet cures cancer. While there is some evidence that the nutrients found in vegetables may help prevent certain cancers, there is no scientific research supporting that vegetable consumption will aid in a cure.

While nutrition is a vital aspect of cancer treatment, there is no nutritional cure for cancer. It is important to stay well-nourished to help maximize the outcome of cancer treatment. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) are available wherever you receive cancer care to help you maintain a healthy nutritional status. My goal is to help you make informed decisions where nutrition is concerned.

*Leanne McCrate, RDN, LD, CNSC, is an award-winning dietitian based in St. Louis, 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. ★*

- EDUCATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT -

## There's money buried in your backyard. And you don't need a shovel to find it.

Learn how home equity can help you fund a better retirement.

It's a well-known fact that for many older Americans, the home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 45% of their total net worth. *And with interest rates still near all-time lows while home values remain high, this combination creates the perfect dynamic for getting the most out of your built-up equity.*

But, many aren't taking advantage of this unprecedented period. According to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than **8.05 trillion dollars\* of unused home equity.**

Not only are people living longer than ever before, but there is also greater uncertainty in the economy. With home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short sighted when looking for the best long-term outcome.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) loan

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 98% of their clients are satisfied with their loans. While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners - especially in times like these.

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for almost any purpose. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need

**Request a FREE Info Kit & DVD Today!**  
**Call 800-840-5887 now.**

to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a government-insured HECM loan; however the borrowers are still responsible for paying for the maintenance of their home, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

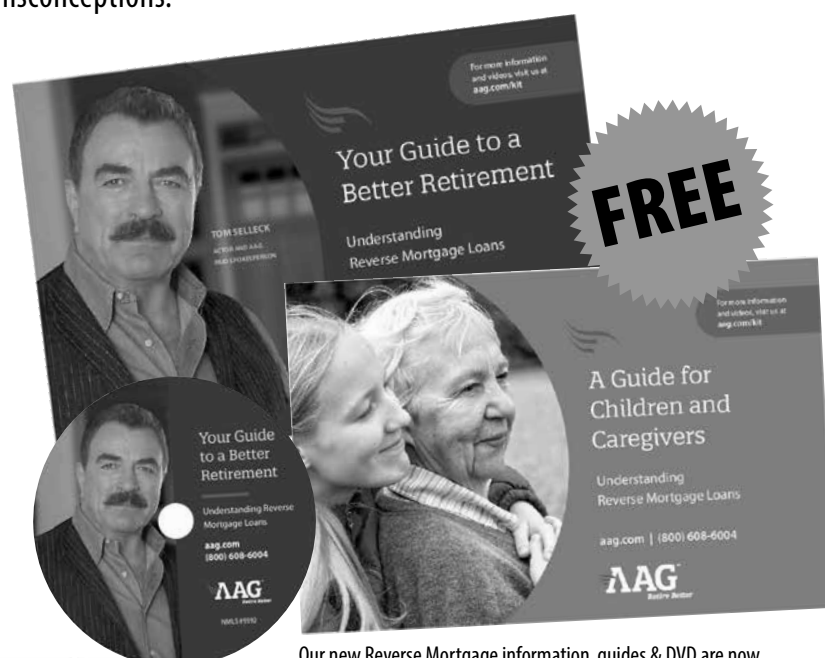
Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a safety net for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make the best decision - for your financial future.

**We're here and ready to help. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a FREE Reverse Mortgage Information Kit and DVD by calling toll-free at**

**800-840-5887**



Our new Reverse Mortgage information guides & DVD are now available featuring award-winning actor and paid AAG spokesman, Tom Selleck.



**U.S.A.'s #1 Reverse Mortgage Company**

**As Featured on: ABC, CBS, CNN & Fox News**

\*<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/senior-housing-wealth-exceeds-record-154300624.html>

Reverse mortgage loan terms include occupying the home as your primary residence, maintaining the home, paying property taxes and homeowners insurance. Although these costs may be substantial, AAG does not establish an escrow account for these payments. However, a set-aside account can be set up for taxes and insurance, and in some cases may be required. Not all interest on a reverse mortgage is tax-deductible and to the extent that it is, such deduction is not available until the loan is partially or fully repaid.

AAG charges an origination fee, mortgage insurance premium (where required by HUD), closing costs and servicing fees, rolled into the balance of the loan. AAG charges interest on the balance, which grows over time. When the last borrower or eligible non-borrowing spouse dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, or fails to comply with the loan terms, the loan becomes due and payable (and the property may become subject to foreclosure). When this happens, some or all of the equity in the property no longer belongs to the borrowers, who may need to sell the home or otherwise repay the loan balance. V2020.12.22

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# SPARKY'S CORNER

## BBQ Safety

BBQ's and gas grills cause an average of 8,800 residential fires every year. Additionally, around 16,900 people end up in the Emergency Room from BBQ related injuries. CAL FIRE/Gridley Fire Department would like to offer these helpful tips for some safe outdoor cooking and grilling.

- Never use a BBQ or grill indoors, including a garage or shed.
- Ensure a gas grill is OFF before leaving the grill unattended.
- Use caution when lighting charcoal. Use a long lighter to light
- Pull BBQs and grills away from walls or flammable materials when in use.
- Keep a fire extinguisher close by.
- Don't store items that can burn on or near your BBQ or grill.
- Keep inside of hood clean.
- Keep children away from hot BBQs and grills to prevent burn injuries.
- Also, remember to cook meats to a safe temperature.

Thank You, and Be Safe!!

**Sparky the Dog  
Gridley Fire Station 74**





# Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings Taking Effect

California Department of Public Health

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On June 15th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will align with the current CDC face covering guidance. In many settings, wearing a face covering will not be required for people who are fully vaccinated. In addition to the CDC guidance, CDPH has issued additional face covering requirements for use in high-risk settings.

Butte County Public Health will continue to follow all guidelines issued by CDPH including new guidance for face coverings in high-risk situations.

The new guidance states, masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals, except in the following settings where masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

On public transit and in transportation hubs; Indoors in K-12 schools, child care and other youth settings. (CDPH anticipates that revised CDC school guidance is forthcoming and plans to align with that); In healthcare settings, including long term care facilities; In correctional facilities and detention centers; In homeless shelters, emergency shelters and cooling

centers; Masks are required\* for unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses (examples: retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, state and local government offices serving the public); In settings where masks are required for unvaccinated individuals, businesses, venue operators or hosts may choose to:

Provide information to all patrons, guests and attendees regarding vaccination requirements and allow vaccinated individuals to self-attest that they are in compliance prior to entry; Implement vaccine verification to determine whether individuals are required to wear a mask; Require all patrons to wear masks.

In workplaces, employers are subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) or the CalOSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard, and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements.

Read the full Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings issued by CDPH at [www.cdph.ca.gov/.../guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/.../guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx)

Learn more at the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 website: [www.ButteCounty.net/ph/COVID19](http://www.ButteCounty.net/ph/COVID19). ★



## LOCAL FISHING

Yellow Creek, Humbug Valley, Plumas Co.; Summer Solstice June 21, 2021.. The longest day of the year. Use: Adams or Light Cahill flies. (?) E. branch of the N.F. Feather River; wild trout...Belden Dam/Oak Flat PH up river to Seneca Bridge. Use: Little Yellow Sallie Stonefly Nymph lead w/ BH Copper John dropper fly. (b) Warner Creek; Lassen Park boundary to Hi-Bridge Camp. And Mouth of Hot Creek. Use: Birds Nest lead w/ Prince Nymph dropper. (b) Deer Creek; Tehama Co. Potato Patch up creek to Deer Cr. Falls. Trout plant. Use: Red or Yellow Humpy. (b) Mile Lake, Oroville WA; red ear sunfish active; Use: Elk Hair Caddis #10 (b). Smallmouth bass. Use: Poppers in yellow, white, or red. (b)



Red and Yellow Humpies .. t/b

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA

S.F. Bay; spawned out striped bass returning downriver. Party boats, 1-striper per rod. Use: Anchovy cut bait. (a) Limits of California halibut. Use: Anchovy cut baits. (a) Delta; big tides. Try low tides at Brannon Island, or Three Mile Slough. Use: Rattletraps (a)

## COASTAL WATERS

S.F. Coast Line; Salmon opener, June 27, 2021. Use: Herring cut baits. (?) Eureka Coast; no news of salmon moving. (?) Offshore high winds prevents boat access.

## LAKES RESERVOIRS AND RIVERS

**Fisherman's Comment:** "Notice" Lake Oroville is down to 709-feet. Only Bidwell Canyon and Spillway ramps are open. King salmon of 13.5 lbs. reported caught. Lake Almanor; annual Hexagenia (Hex) hatch happens...June 27 - July 7, 2021...Two week window. Use: Hex Nymphs, then Hex Adults. (?) Prolific insect hatch fills rainbows stomachs, won't bite fisherman's imitation flies. (gg) Frenchman's Lake; Fly fisherman's access at Snallygaster Point. Launch pontoon boats, belly boats (float tubes), or wade offshore. Use: Stillwater Midge #18. (b) Lake Pardee; Lightning Trout are hit-



Lightening Trout (rare)

ting. Use: Speedy Shiner. (a) Lake Berryessa; post spawn big mouths bottom feeding. Use: Carolina Rig w/ plastic Lizard. (a) Fall River; best rainbows above Island Bridge and boat ramp. Technique... double anchor, boat perpendicular to the shore and current. Present lures downriver. Use: #16-20 Baetis Mayflies. (b) Truckee River; fish the garbage dump below the Old Road, crossing Glenshire Bridge. Nice rainbows. Use: attractor flies ie., Renegade #12 and Irrisistibles #10. (b)

"He knows best what good is that has endured evil." !Beelzebub! ~ Brownie

# We Must Prioritize Unemployment Fund Debt

By Brooke Armour, California Business Roundtable

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The U.S. Treasury released its guidance on how states can use their share of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which were part of the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress earlier this year. Under the guidance provided today, states can use their portion of the more than \$350 billion allocated by Congress on myriad COVID-19 related activities, including paying down a state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Fund debt.

"While we are all celebrating a record \$75.5 billion surplus, we cannot forget the state also has a \$20 billion UI Fund debt. Now that we have clear guidance from the U.S. Treasury how the \$26 billion in unallocated federal aid California will receive can be used, the California Business Roundtable is calling on Governor Newsom and state leaders to prioritize paying down the state's record UI Fund debt with these federal funds," said Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable.

California's UI debt is now more than \$20 billion, and it is growing at approximately \$1.2 billion per month. The current debt is more than double the debt the fund incurred

during the Great Recession. That debt took more than 10 years to pay off. Given the boom-bust cycle of the California budget, it is likely the current debt could not be paid off at our existing pace before another recession would drive the fund into further debt. This situation would result in constantly rising employment taxes just as businesses are struggling to rehire their workers, and undermines the fiscal integrity of a key element in California's income safety net.

"Addressing the UI Fund debt is a critical part of the state's economic recovery. The massive debt is a looming threat for every business in California. If unaddressed, the debt will lead to an automatic tax increase on every business in the state at a time when they can least afford it. California businesses already pay the highest UI Fund payments, plus a 15 percent premium that was added to pay off the last debt. Businesses did not cause this recession and should not bear the burden of paying off this debt," Lapsley continued. "Businesses need more certainty than ever right now, not even more threats of higher taxes. The governor and Legislature should take action now and help ensure businesses reopening after more than a year of closure can afford to stay open well into the future." ★

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Act Now Before California Burns

Several years ago we had a similar drought but not as bad as the current crisis and I was deeply concerned and remain concerned about the threat of forest fires in the beautiful forests of California, especially in the forest behind my house and possibly your home.

To express my concerns I drafted a letter with the same heading as the foregoing one outlining several steps that, in my opinion, should be taken to extinguish forest fires when they first start, not when they become thousands of acres. In the letter, among other things I recommended that the U. S. Forest Service (hereinafter referenced as FS) dramatically increase during high fire danger the amount of FS fire patrolman equipped with firefighting equipment to patrol the forests. The patrolman directed by the FS fire lookout towers could extinguish the fire when it first started thereby avoiding a catastrophic situation like we now face. I further recommended that the FS employ during high fire danger trusted local citizens with CB radios and now in addition cell phones as patrolman who knows the country better than the FS. I advocated the increased use of prisoners to fight forest fires and there is no shortage of those. I sent the letter to The U.S. Forest Service, several newspapers, members of congress, and members of the California State legislature.

Sorry to say my suggestions were an exercise in futility and the suggestions fell on deaf ears. We are now experiencing some of the worst fires in history with more to come. The FS did just the opposite of what I had recommended. They abandoned and/or dismantled at least seven fire lookout towers in this area. The people in these fire lookout towers were dedicated people whose goal was early detection and suppression of forest fires. Instead of increasing the number of fire patrolman they actually eliminated some of them. They did not increase the use of prisoners but actually closed down a federal

prison camp near here that was used for fire prevention and fire control.

The powers that be will tell you that they have sophisticated equipment to detect fires when they first start but we know that is at best disingenuous because of all the massive fires now burning. If they did detect fires when they first started then it is criminal that they did not extinguish them before they became several thousand acres. Please keep in mind the most important issue--If they put out these fires when they first start, thousands of brave firefighters' lives would not be put at risk

It leads one to believe that because of all the money involved (billions) they do not really want to put out these forest fires that turn our forests into a charred landscape, burning hundreds of homes, killing millions of animals and sometimes people. The Chief of the FS is already asking for more than 600 million of your hard earned tax dollars this year when their budget is already bloated. (5.5 billion) He is whining that if they don't receive the money they will have to use money designated to improve woodpecker habitat.

The fire lookout towers should be reestablished and manned. There should be at least five times the amount of patrolman 24/7 and enlist more of the private sector as patrolman. The status quo isn't working because more than forty per cent of all forest burned is in California alone.

Please remember each one of the current massive fires probably could have been put out with five gallons of water if discovered and acted upon in time. Please also keep in mind recent scientific studies have conclusively determined that smoke from forest fires is sixteen times more toxic than cigarette smoke.

William J. Prater  
Clipper Mills, CA

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## Crime Reports



### Gridley- Biggs Police Report

June 7 - June 13

**6-7-21:** At 1:53 pm on Washington and Hazel Streets, Gridley CA, Diana Conception Padilla, 34, was arrested on a local misdemeanor bench warrant and booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-7-21:** At 9:37 pm on the 1000 block of E. Gridley Rd., Gridley CA, Jonathan Ross Petty, 36, was arrested on an outside agency misdemeanor warrant and booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-8-21:** At 10:49 pm on Larkin and Higgins Ave., Gridley CA, Regina Muzetta Silvina Brown, 35, was arrested for child cruelty (273A (A) PC), driving under the influence (23152 (a) VC), having a blood alcohol level %0.08 or higher (23152 (b) PC), possession of a narcotic controlled substance (11350 (a) H&S) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-9-21:** At 1:00 pm on the 100 block of Vista Del Rio Rd., Gridley CA, Kiyatta Michelle Leshawn Szillat, 25, was arrested for possession stolen vehicle/vessel (496 (D) PC), carrying a concealed dirk or dagger (21310 PC), possession of drug paraphernalia (11364 (a) H&S), violation of probation (1203.2 (a) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-9-21:** At 7:23 pm on E. Gridley Rd., Gridley CA, Krista Marie Gray, 36, was arrested for public intoxication (647 (f) PC) and booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-9-21:** At 9:21 pm at Ord Ranch Rd. and Hwy 99, Gridley CA, David Mark Thommen, 48, was arrested for felony possession of a controlled substance (11377 (a) H&S), violation of felony parole (3056 PC), an outside agency felony warrant and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-11-21:** At 8:38 pm on the 200 block of Spruce St., Gridley CA, Shannon Lee Mattos, 50, was arrested for public intoxication (647 (f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-13-21:** At 2:58 am on California and Cedar Streets, Gridley CA, Paul Michael Branch III, 26, was arrested for driving under the influence (23152 (a) VC), having a blood alcohol level of .08% (23152 (b) VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-13-21:** At 3:05 am on California and Cedar Streets, Gridley CA, Taylor Logan Storm, 28, was arrested for public intoxication (647 (f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**6-13-21:** At 5:54 am on Hwy 99 and Ord Ranch Rd., Cesar Alejandro Navarro, 37, was arrested on a local misdemeanor bench warrant, for possession of drug paraphernalia (11364(a) H&S) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

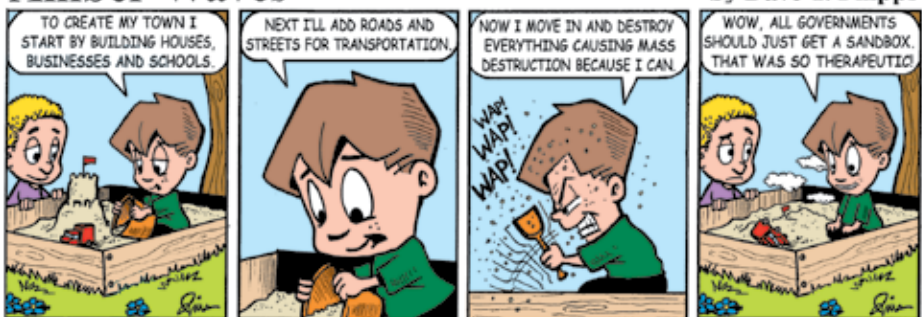
get more info at [www.crimegraphics.com](http://www.crimegraphics.com)





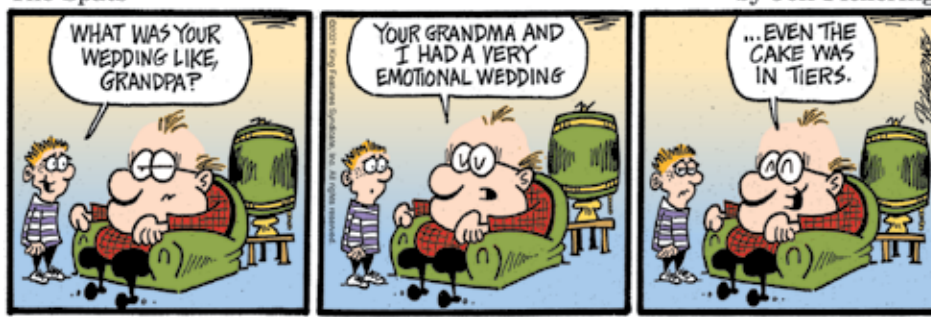
# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves



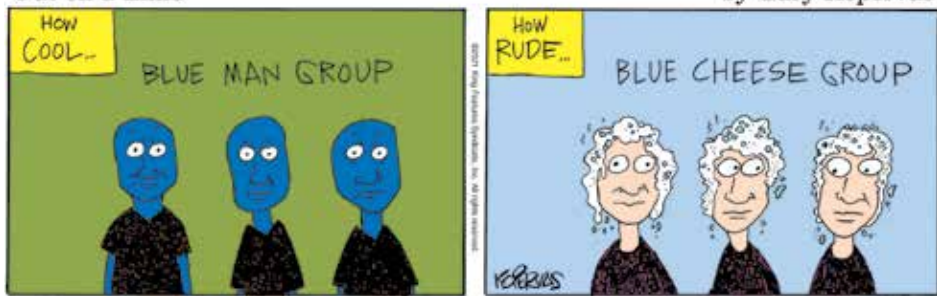
by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

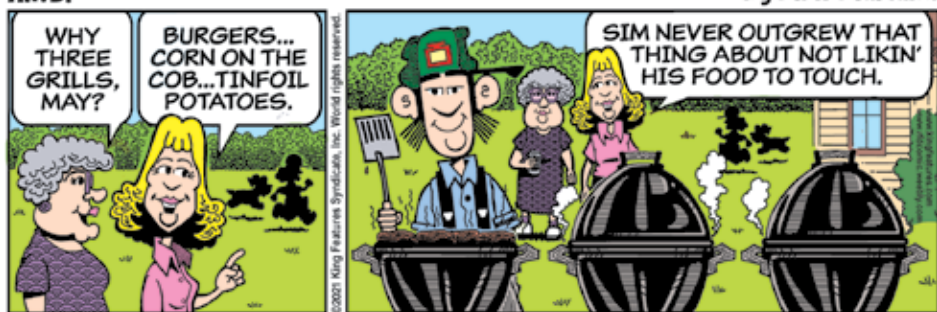
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



## CRIM BEAR IT



"Rodney refuses to drive your SUV, Daddy. May we use the hybrid?"

## LAFF-A-DAY



"He used to come and talk to us every day, but we haven't seen or heard from since we elected him to congress!"

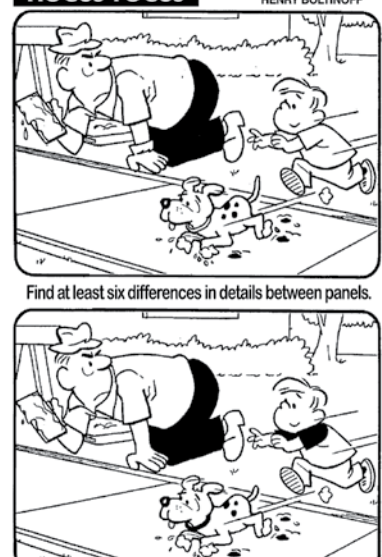
## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Differences: 1. Color is different. 2. Spot is missing. 3. Tail is different. 4. Glove is removed. 5. Dip is missing. 6. Shirt is different.



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Register Here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JFNTN0F8R-CluPQIEdfIUG](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JFNTN0F8R-CluPQIEdfIUG)

Description: In this 4-part webinar series, you will learn how to build a business that focuses on providing great customer experience. How to leverage different online platforms to get more sales. How to identify the right metrics to track for business success Presenter: Shane Barker – owner of Clout Consulting, LLC is a digital marketing consultant who specializes in ecommerce, influencer marketing, product launches, sales funnels, targeted traffic, and website conversions to drive sales. He has consulted with Fortune 500 companies, influencers with digital products, and a number of A-List celebrities, and is an instructor at UCLA.

JUNE 22, 2021 - PART 4

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# SPORTS

## GHS Basketball Finishes Season with Wins over Orland



Gridley High School varsity boys basketball player and senior, Grant Tull #4, drives through the Orland defender on his way to the basket on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Tull would go to the free throw line after the foul and sink both free throws. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo



Gridley High School varsity girls basketball player and senior, Marysa Taylor #31, shoots a free throw during the final game of the season against Orland High School on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo

By Joshua Porcayo

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley High School varsity basketball wrapped up their short season at home on Saturday, June 5, 2021, against Orland High School. Basketball fans from both communities packed Farmers Hall to watch the two schools compete after a quick ceremony honoring the senior players for the Bulldogs.

The Lady Bulldogs had a strong team this year led by senior captains, Kennedy Tull and Ally Mardesich, going 4-0 on the shortened season. The team beat Las Plumas High School (47-44), Wheatland High School

(56-48), Oroville High School (64-32), and Orland High School (59-44). With Fall sports given a short time to get a season in, Gridley's Lady Bulldog basketball program formed one team composed of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. This year's roster included Tull (senior), Mardesich (senior), Lupita Soria (senior), Marysa Taylor (senior), Ariana Alejo (junior), Aubrey Ponciano (junior), Ella Sannar (sophomore), Alyssa Thompson (freshman), Sidney Allard (freshman), and Rya Andes (freshman).

The boys basketball team took a while to get their chemistry built throughout their five game season, but was able to find their

groove with the final game when they beat the Orland Trojans at home. The team, led by seniors Grant Tull, Cameron Carr, and Chance Nicolson, went 2-3 on the season winning games against Oroville High School (62-56 OT) and Orland High School (51-40), and losing to Las Plumas High School (57-49), Wheatland High School (58-55), and their first meeting against Orland High School (53-42). This year's roster included freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors as well, which included Tull (senior), C. Carr (senior), Nicolson (senior), Anthony Hiestand (senior), Erik Caudillo (junior), Shay Carr (junior), Jorge Ramirez (junior),

Tyler Farr (junior), Michael Sanchez (junior), Fabian Garcia (junior), Carson Wallace (freshman), Brian Brown (freshman), Benson Tolman (freshman), Kiko Castillo (freshman), and Shmass Khan (freshman).

The Tull twins will continue their basketball careers this fall when they join their older sister, Maddysen Tull, at the Oregon Institute of Technology. All three Tulls will be playing for Oregon Tech on sports scholarships.

Congratulations to all the basketball players and to the senior class of 2021 for making it a memorable season. ★

## Biggs-Richvale Majors Lady A's Win District-47 Tournament of Champions

By Joshua Porcayo

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - The Biggs-Richvale majors softball team was on fire this Little League season going an impressive 16-0. They played 13 games in the regular season and swept the District 47 Majors Softball Tournament of Champions bracket in 3 games. Managed by Brian Harrison and coached by Jolene Sheppard and Tera Tuttle, the Lady A's showed their hard work and team chemistry really paid off in the championship game against Durham Little League.

The tournament for the Lady A's got started on Saturday, June 5, 2021, in Willows, CA against Oroville Little League. The Lady A's took care of business with a 12-2 victory to move on in the bracket.



Biggs-Richvale Little League majors softball team poses with the District 47 Tournament of Champions banner after beating Durham Little League in the championship game on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo

Their second game was on Monday, June 8, 2021, against tournament host, Willows Little League. A tougher battle, the Lady A's were victorious 4-3 to move onto the championship

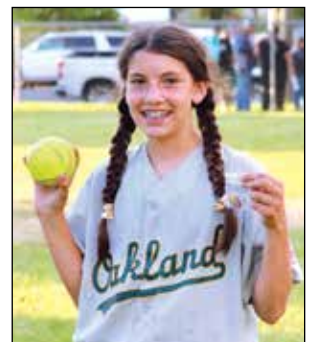
round. On June 9, 2021, the Lady A's played Durham Little League for the T.O.C. Championship. Down 7-1 in the bottom of the second inning, the Lady A's battled back to take an 8-7 lead in

the inning and would go on to victory 11-9.

The players on the team included: Kaydenze Pruitt (#1), Madison Miller (#2), Emma Bermudez (#3), Arden Vines (#4), Gracie

Sheppard (#5), Brittany Lewis (#7), Kimberly Gonzalez (#8), Val Poyner (#9), Riley Harrison (#10), Natalie Harris (#11), Allison DeLira (#12), and Kaedence Lowery (#13).

Kaydenze Pruitt won the player of the game award and hit an inside the park home run in the big comeback second inning to help lead the Biggs-Richvale A's to victory as tournament champions. Congratulations girls and coaches! ★



Biggs-Richvale Little League majors softball player, Kaydenze Pruitt, poses with her home run ball and home run pin after helping her team win the District 47 Tournament of Champions banner against Durham Little League in the championship game. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Porcayo

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## Gridley Gators Invitational Swim Meet is On!

By Mindy Laviolette

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley Gators Swim Team is excited to announce that after a long, challenging year they are once again hosting their annual Gridley Gator Invitational Swim Meet. The dates of the Swim Meet are June 25-27, 2021. The Gridley invitational is their largest fundraiser of the season and provides the team the opportunity to take part in a diverse swim competition right here in their hometown of Gridley. Proceeds from this year's event will not only benefit the swim club but will also help cover operational



The swim meet will help pay operational costs for this summer's only athletic program in Gridley. Photo provided by Mindy Laviolette

costs to the only summer athletic program available in our community. 2021 marks the 52nd anniversary of the Gridley Gators Swim Team.

Food trucks, including

sweet water shaved ice, will be at the meet, so come on out, support our swimmers and our local small businesses! Good luck to all our Gator swimmers!! ★

# Biggs High School Class of 2021!

By Seti Long

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - The stage was set, beautifully, for the Biggs High School Class of 2021, to make their grand entrance and even grander exit as they commenced Graduation!

As guests took to the stands of the very lovely Biggs High School stadium, they did so to the sound of voice recordings of each of the 45 graduates addressing their parents, teachers and more, thanking them for their support and love throughout their scholastic journey. Banners lined both sides of the stage featuring the graduates' photos and meaningful allegiances, like sports, cheer, FFA or more. The banners had originally hung down Biggs' B street the months prior to graduation to honor each of the students' accomplishments.

After the seniors made their way to their graduation stage, the crowd and graduates were welcomed in

both English (Emma Ceballos) and Spanish (Jared Munanui). What came next was a complete tearjerker.

A tradition at BHS, Aurora Little and Anthony Velaquez presided over the "flowers to parents" ceremony—A highly sentimental and emotional moment for many in the crowd. At this time, graduates rose and descended from their stage and made their ways into the bleachers to present their parents flowers and express their gratitude.

The moving tribute to their parents cleared the way for graduates to get down to the business of graduating! The history of the class of 2021 was given by Megan Shelton and Grace Ramos. It was then the class Salutatorians Jackie Gonzalez and Calixtro Navarro gave their inspiring speeches, followed by Valedictorian Elaine Vera. Vera started out her speech with an additional thank you to her parents and the sacrifices they

made to get her to this point, "I am standing here as valedictorian in honor of not only my parents' legacy, but also every single other Hispanic and immigrant that shares a common story." Her pride in her heritage, her family, herself, and her classmates were evident.

Next students were recognized for multiple awards, read a congratulatory letter to them penned by President Joe Biden, and heard from both Principal Tyler Rutledge and Superintendent Doug Kaelin.

Finally, the time came for each student to receive their diploma. As the graduation procession culminated, a round of congratulations to the Class of 2021 was celebrated by all in attendance, with caps and streamers flying. Graduates met their families and friends down on the football field to celebrate the conclusion of one chapter, and the big beginning of the next.



Valedictorian Elaine Vera proudly thanks her family for supporting her and thanks them for the sacrifices they made, both immigrants, to help her achieve her dreams. Photo by Seti Long



In a poignant moment, graduating Seniors leave the stage to deliver flowers to their parents, thanking them for years of support. Photo by Seti Long



Congratulations Bigg High School Graduating Class of 2021! Photo by Seti Long



## Welcome

**INTRODUCING**  
**Dr. Shailesh S. Nandish**

We are pleased to welcome Enloe Cardiologist Shailesh S. Nandish, M.D. as our consulting cardiologist for Orchard Hospital. Dr. Nandish is American Board certified in Internal Medicine, certification in interventional cardiology, and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Nandish attended Bangalore Medical College in India, completed his residency at Southern Illinois University, School of Medicine, and completed his fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center.



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

To schedule a local appointment with Dr. Nandish, please contact the Medical Specialty Center **(530) 846-9080**.

**284 Spruce Street, Gridley, CA 95948**

