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Valentine's day**



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CAL FIRE Lets It Burn



CALFIRE Captain Derington and CALFIRE crew Langston observe while fire overtakes the former Habanero Fish and Tacos Mexican Restaurant. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Depending on when you grew up in Gridley will determine what you call it, but the old building on the corner of Hwy 99 and Ford Avenue has met its match. Literally.

The building was burned down Monday, February 8th 2021 after serving as a training site for CALFIRE crews for the past two weeks. Inclement weather prevented it from being demolished Thursday, February 4th when the "Live Fire" evolutions began at the site.

The Live Fire Training Exercise, organized by Battalion Chief Sean Norman, invited CALFIRE crews from all over the area to participate. Engines and crews from Chico, Richvale, Bangor, Biggs, Sutter and

more were on site, with CALFIRE fighters ranging in experience from rookies to seasoned vets. Chief Norman said "We had about 50 firefighters rotate through different types of training" as they honed their skills and furthered training.

CALFIRE was incredibly grateful to have the building for training. The word "invaluable" was used by many to describe the gravity of being able to train in a non-emergency situation. Chief Norman says "We have some training props that are great for us, but you cannot replace training on a real building and we're really appreciative of Gridley Country Ford, they own the building, for letting us come in and use it." He continues, "We have some new, young people.... It's been really good for them

to come in and get some skills and get some of that muscle memory built up...put some slides in their slide tray so as they come to a fire, they could say 'hey I've seen that before, I see how that's going to react, I'll be able to predict it'. And ultimately it makes them more effective at their job and keeps them safe."

Preparation work and other small training evolutions were relatively quiet before the "Live Fire" training that began last Thursday. Crews rotated through four "stations" so-to-speak on each training evolution, or each fire exercise conducted: Fire Attack, Ventilation, Back-Up and R&R. CALFIRE's Rick Carhart said "It's perfect because, if we go to a structure fire, everybody's going to

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FEMA: Can't Stay if You Can't Pay

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley Relief Group held a meeting in order to determine their course of action in regard to the FEMA camp at the Gridley Industrial Park.

According to FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison Bruce Yerman, the scheduled end of program for the FEMA park is May 12, 2021. There are currently 112 households at the park, which Yerman says is changing "almost daily at this point." Disaster Case Managers (DCM) and recertification advisors are working hard to help the remaining survivors currently living at the park find alternative housing prior to the May 12 deadline.

The contract with FEMA and the City of Gridley has already been extended multiple times. "What is unique about this disaster amongst all disasters in the nation is how long it has been extended," says Yerman. "This just isn't seen elsewhere in the United States. In part, that is because of the nature of the disaster." The extensions buy survivors more time to find housing, but at a certain point, they start doing more harm than good.

The stark reality is that money is a huge motivating factor and as urgency grows, FEMA intends to use fines as incentive to straggling survivors that have not found housing yet. As of May 13th, anyone remaining at the FEMA park will be subject to fines and penalties that could cost \$2,000 and up, depending on their unit size. The fees would cover the cost of the pad the mobile units are on, their maintenance, utilities costs, etc. and would be a monthly incurrence on anyone still inhabiting a FEMA unit. Cost is based on the Housing and Urban Development rates for the number of bedrooms in the domicile.

According to Gridley Police Chief and Acting City Administrator Rodney Harr, on January 14th, the city entered into a 6-month contractual agreement to extend the FEMA lease until July 1st. That looks to be the final contract date, but the City of Gridley seems to be open to considering a potential extension past July 1st, 2021.

In the meantime, this information has left the community concerned about the survivors and their options come May 13th. Yerman says, "the park won't disappear overnight" but will survivors take to the streets due to their inability to pay fines? What about the Gridley

Continued on page 2

Eckert Still Working for City of Gridley

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Four months after his arrest for allegedly driving under the influence of drugs, Paul Eckert has been cleared of any charges after a blood test confirms the lack of any illegal drugs in his system.

Community uproar and calls for his removal in the wake of the incident with the California Highway Patrol and social media posts regarding a separate investigation into Eckert by Gridley Police Department caused Eckert to resign from his position as City Administrator and City Finance Director while Gridley City Councilmembers considered their course of action. The last information circulating in the public by way of the Council before

his resignation was that Mr. Eckert would be working from home for the City of Gridley until November 30th. After Eckert's resignation, the community assumed that Eckert and the City of Gridley had parted ways.

On Sunday, February 7th, City Councilmember Catalina Sanchez put a community update on Facebook, surprising the community with some information from the January 19th City Council Meeting. Councilmember Sanchez has been assigned to the Northern California Power Agency Committee, which requires the involvement of a voting Councilmember, City Attorney and City Administrators. During that discussion, it came to light that Paul Eckert was indeed

still under contract with the City of Gridley, although it's a separate contract, acting in a capacity to keep relations with the NCPA and the City of Gridley in good standing. A fact that was previously unknown to Councilmember Sanchez and the majority of our town. In her post online, Councilmember Sanchez says she asked the Council if the community was aware of this, in which she states Mayor Bruce Johnson responded, "It's not a secret."

It may not have been a "secret", but it was not openly expressed to the community that Paul Eckert, although he had resigned his positions of City Administrator and City Finance Director, was still working for the City of Gridley.

We have not been able to obtain a copy of the contract at this time, but from our conversation with Mayor Johnson, Eckert is to work approximately 20 hours a week, remotely and not at City Hall, not to exceed \$3,300.00 of compensation with no benefits, to facilitate work and business relationships between Gridley and the NCPA until a new City Administrator is hired, or other action is taken. Eckert's current contract can be severed at any time for any reason, according to Mayor Johnson.

Mayor Johnson explains that during the January 19th meeting, Chief Harr (also Interim City Administrator), City Attorney Tony Galyean, and himself reiterated how crucial the relationship

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The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

From time to time I think I write about local churches too often but looking at this original Gridley Herald Pi Line of May 3, 1995 - Mr. Burleson was actively promoting every churching town, just like he hoped for and encouraged every business and social improvement. Back then they put notices for the planning commission in the paper so people could attend and support the endeavor, not protest and litigate it. Below from volume 114, No 44: Grace Lutheran Church is planning to build church offices and a Christian

school on 5 acres at the corner of Highway 99 in Pryde Avenue. There will be a public hearing on the application for a permit before the Butte County Planning commission at 9 AM on Thursday, June 8 the property is owned A-5. I don't remember when we had a fundraiser like the doll show planned for next Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Veterans Hall in Biggs. The admission is only two dollars for adults and one dollar for children under 10. Refreshments will be available and a special doll will be auctioned off. It is on display at Cottage Mercantile in Gridley. The United Methodist Church in Biggs is raising funds for a new organ and the doll show is aiming to raise some of the needed funds. Alan Wiser has one of the latest in high-tech fishing poles on display in his shop, Wiser Quality Bass Tackle Shop, upstairs in Wiser Automotive, corner

of Virginia and Magnolia Streets. We handled the pole very carefully and wondered if this beauty would help us catch fish. The line runs inside the poll there are no blind guides other than on the tip. It's called the Pinnacle Inner Flow Rod. Naturally, with a \$100 pole, you are going to need a \$100 fast wind reel, and some of the latest, expensive copolymer line. Last year state-of-the-art fish lines are already out of stock and stronger and better lines are announced every day. Seems like there's a new lure recommended every day as the Bass at Lake Oroville change their appetite. Allan has a good supply of those too. Another fundraiser - ever popular - is the salad luncheon in Memorial Hall to be put on by the Quota Club this Friday.

Josh F.W. Cook is public administrator and educator. ★

FEMA: Can't Stay if You Can't Pay

Continued from page 1

Wildfires Distribution Center, which so many Camp Fire Survivors rely on? Should it phase down operations and close the same time as the park? Will FEMA postpone fees if another extension is granted? As FEMA operatives, the City of Gridley, and our services groups such as the Gridley Relief Group

struggle to find answers to those questions and solutions as the deadline quickly approaches. For now, FEMA residents can expect to move or start paying May 13th. ★

The Manzanita Elementary School District

Is now registering children who will be turning 5 years old on or before September 1, 2021 for its 2021-2022 Kindergarten class.

We are also accepting names of students who will be turning 5 between September 2, 2021 and December 2, 2021 who qualify to participate in a possible Transitional Kindergarten program.

If you live within the Manzanita Elementary School Boundaries, please call Mrs. Cahoon at 846-5594 to register your child.

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MEMORIAL NOTICE

Flavio R. Alfaro

Flavio R. Alfaro, 59, of Sacramento CA, a local chestnut farmer, former Marine and U.S. Olympic baseball player passed away January 27, 2021 at home with his wife after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

"Flav"

attacked life with uncompromising zeal, humor and generosity. For Flav, each day was a celebration to be enjoyed with his wife, family and numerous friends from across his life's journey.

That journey began in the Pacoima area of Los Angeles, where his baseball speed and glove skills began to emerge at Polytechnic High School. After service in the United States Marine Corps, he returned to playing baseball at College of the Canyons and then for San Diego State University Aztecs.

He was then given the honor of a lifetime when he was selected as a member of the United States' first national Olympic baseball team in 1984. Flav played middle infield and travelled the country with many future Major League Baseball All Stars. The team played in the Olympics' demonstration baseball tournament during the 1984 Summer Olympics in Flav's hometown of Los Angeles, earning silver medals.

Flav was the 99th overall pick in the 1984 Major League Baseball First-Year Draft and played for several minor league teams, including the Durham Bulls. He was extremely humble about his baseball career, joking that it was over "once they put a wooden bat in my hand." When asked about his time playing baseball, he preferred to tell stories of the fun he had, the friends he made and the lessons he learned -- never about any personal achievements.

After his baseball career, Flav worked in the recycling business and moved to Sacramento, where he met the love of his life, Suzanne. "Suz" would be at his side for nearly 30 years. Along the way, Flav recommitted to earning his college degree and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Management Systems from California State University Sacramento.

Flav's passion was spending time with friends and

family. The home he and Suz made was full of warmth, laughter, great food and wine. Their door was always open. He loved exercise, movies, music, books and sports. He loved to travel with his wife to wine country. He loved playing golf, poker and fantasy sports with his friends.

Flav was an accomplished storyteller. During countless leisurely times with friends and family, his tales and his long list of Flav-isms to describe everyday life would leave anyone crying in laughter. He enriched many young lives who all knew him for his "power hugs." He cherished the title of "uncle" and "tio." And he had a deep love for animals. He spent much of his time caring for his cats and dog, Lily "The Hammer".

Most recently, Flav managed Harrison's California Chestnut Farm in Gridley, owned by his mother-in-law Sandy and late father-in-law Paul Harrison. There too, Flav, Suz, Sandy, his sister-in-law Anastasia and brother-in-law Kevin ensured the farm was a place for family and friends to enjoy cookouts, and for children to hunt for Easter eggs, ride on tractors and drive golf carts.

Flav was a larger-than-life figure and his enormous positive and joyful presence will live on in spirit. His life will serve as an inspiration to his extended family and to young scholar athletes.

Flavio is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne (Harrison) Alfaro of Sacramento; parents Luis and Teresa; brothers Manuel, Jaime and Ramon, and sister Irma Roman of Pacoima; mother-in-law Sandy Harrison of Gridley, sister-in-law Anastasia (Harrison) Murphy and her husband Kevin of Elk Grove; nephews Marcus, Manuel, Oscar and Michael; and nieces Shaney, Marissa, Selina, Shealyn, Maggie and many grand nieces and nephews, uncles, aunts and cousins. He is preceded in death by his father-in-law Paul Harrison; two dogs Chevy and Cleo.

Flavio was laid to rest at the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery in Gridley, CA. A celebration of life to include his extended family and friends will be held in the future, when it is safe to do so.

Donations can be made to the Flavio Alfaro Memorial Scholarship Fund, 1017 L St #794, Sacramento CA 95814.



CA Lions Care!

Gridley Lions Club

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley Lions Club will be participating in the California Lions Project Care: Hunger, a statewide Lions Clubs Service project to be conducted during the month of February 2021. The club will be collecting non-perishable food items for distribution to the food banks and food closets in Gridley.

The purpose of the California Lions Project Care: Hunger is to engage all California Lions Clubs of all sizes in a statewide community service program that is of such vital importance during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Gridley Lions Club will be collecting non-perishable food items on February 20th and 21st from 12 pm to 3pm at the Lions Clubhouse at 186 Washington. You can donate in person or call (530) 228-5167 to make pick-up arrangements.

Gridley Lions Club President June Breitag said she was excited about participating in this statewide project. "The goal of the California Lions Project Care: Hunger is to collect 150,000 pounds of non-perishable food items throughout the state and we look forward to the Gridley Lions Club making a significant contribution to achieving this goal. It is an opportunity for our local Lions Club members to engage in a meaningful project that will greatly benefit our community during the COVID-19 pandemic."

If you are interested in learning more about how you can join the Gridley Lions Club and participate in their community projects/programs, please contact Robert Trueax at rltrueax@gmail.com

For additional information about California Lions Clubs visit their website, www.californialions.org or their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CaLionsClubs. and serving youth throughout the world. ★

Gallagher Co-Authors Bill to Eliminate Hurdles for Military Spouses/Veterans Seeking Employment

By Curtis Grima, Office of Assemblyman James Gallagher

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) has co-authored bi-partisan

legislation that will expand employment opportunities for military families and veterans. Assembly Bill 225 will require regulatory board to grant licenses to honorably discharged veterans and spouses of active duty military members so long as they hold a current, active, and unrestricted license in another state.

"Military members and their spouses should not have to start all over in their professions just because

they move to a new state," said Gallagher. "If someone is licensed, has experience in the field, and has a clean record, they should be able to work in California"

Active duty military spouses face exceptionally high unemployment and underemployment rates at 24% and 31% respectively. California's burdensome licensing requirements only further add to the challenges faced by military spouses serving in professions with occupational license requirements. Even with valid licenses from other states, they must still clear costly and time-consuming regulatory hurdles.

"The passage of California AB 225 will make

an impact to thousands military spouses seeking to be part of California's workforce in their licensed profession", according to Janice Soohoo Nall, Chair of the Beale Military Liaison Council and Co-Chair of the California Defense Communities Alliance. "With this important legislation we have the ability to improve the quality of life of the more than 162,000 active duty personnel who serve our nation selflessly."

Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District, which encompasses all of Glenn, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties as well as portions of Butte and Colusa counties. ★



MEMORIAL NOTICE

Geraldine L. Hall

August 31, 1934 to February 4, 2021

A memorial service will be held at Ramsey Funeral Home on Monday February 15, 2021 at 2 p.m. for Geraldine L. Hall of Gridley, California. Geraldine went home to be with the Lord on Thursday February 4, 2021. Geraldine was born on August 31, 1934 in San Francisco to Alfred and Alyce Rubiolo.

She grew up in San Francisco, and Paradise, California, attending schools in both areas. Geraldine worked in the restaurant business in both the bay area and Paradise. She met and married Frank Hall in 1959 and lived in the Oroville area until 1970 when they moved to Gridley where Geraldine then worked in the local restaurants and in the kitchen at



the Gridley Hospital until she retired. She was a past member of the Gridley Lioness club. After retiring from the hospital, her duties were that of a housewife.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her father Alfred Rubiolo, mother Alyce Rubiolo, brothers Alfred Rubiolo Jr., Albert Rubiolo, John Rubiolo, and Richard Rubiolo, and her loving husband Frank Hall.

She is survived by her son Scott Anderson of Gridley, daughter Meloney Letterman of Gridley, and two grandchildren Nichole Letterman, and Zachery Letterman.

Gary Davidson will officiate the service. Arrangements entrusted to Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel.

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Shirley Jane Underhill

May 1, 1935 to January 20, 2021

Shirley Jane Underhill, a longtime Yuba City resident, passed away unexpectedly January 20, 2021. She was born May 1, 1935 in Live Oak, CA to Lundy and Leona Lewis. Shirley was a devoted wife to her husband for 67 years, a caring mom to her children, and a huge supporter of her grandchildren. After graduating from Yuba City High School with honors in 1953, she married her high school sweetheart James Underhill. The adventure began when they eloped to Reno. With little money to their names and a tank of gas these two embarked on a life journey together that would have a positive impact on those they met along the way. Settling into life together Shirley went to work as a secretary so they could afford to put Jim through college.

Shirley loved her family and raised her children in a way that instilled family values that would serve them well as they grew up and started their own families. She supported her grandchildren by being present at so many of their activities. Holidays were a special time where the family would gather and mom/grandma was always there with her loving smile and huge heart to make sure everyone realized the importance of family.

Shirley was always available to lend a helping hand to those in need. She was a great listener and often shared her wisdom with those in need. She built deep relationships with those she met throughout her life. Many of those friends thought of her as their 2nd mom or grandma.

Shirley loved to travel with her husband Jim to visit with



friends and family. The trips took them to most of the United States, including Hawaii and many countries in Europe. When not in their Yuba City home or traveling she and Jim spent a lot of time at their second home at Lake Almanor.

Shirley loved life and never let life's obstacles change her attitude. She believed that no matter what the day would bring she would make the most of it. Shirley was a giver. She rarely asked for much but instead would make sacrifices for others.

Shirley was an inspiration to all that met her. Over the years, she had many medical challenges but never complained or questioned "why me?". Instead, she held her head high and was the first to say she would get through it. We will miss her smile, sense of humor, but most of all her deep love for her family and friends.

Shirley was predeceased by her son David Underhill, and her sister Betty Parr.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, James Underhill; sister, Peggy Miller (Roy); sons Steve Underhill (Nella); Craig Underhill (Carol); and Gary Underhill (Jill); six grandchildren: Jennifer Permenter (Kevin); Michael Underhill; Alden Underhill (Bethany); Austin Underhill (Jaelin); Caitlin Hurtado (Ricky); Spencer Underhill; and eight great grandchildren. She also leaves many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

No services will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Hospital or Shriners Hospital for Children.

Bulldogs Field a Full Squad for COVID 19 Season!



Gridley High School runners get to it last week as they competed at Las Plumas High School for the first time in 2021. Photos provided by Steve Allard

By Steve Allard

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - After 7 months of conditioning and waiting for the green light from CIF and the health department, the Gridley Bulldogs were good to go for their first meet of the school year. It was an epic meet as Cross Country was the first sport approved in our county to compete after all sports were canceled in March of 2020. "I'm so excited for today," 4th-year runner and team captain, Damian Mendoza explained minutes before the gun. "It feels good to be out here." Mendoza finished the 5K race 3rd (20:12) followed by freshman Cesareo Villalobos (20:31) and Gordon Labuff (20:39), 4th & 5th. The varsity squad also consists of Emmanuel Hernandez Guterrez, (21:29), 7th,

and rounding out the 10th spot was Cesar Zepeda Martinez (24:16). Other finishers were Geovannie Gutierrez (29:47), Tyler Owens (32:50), and Jericho Spade (35:06). Varsity Girls did not field a full team. Janessa Delgado (Frosh) finished 3rd overall (23:48) and Giselle Fuentes 5th (25:24) also a first-year runner. Both runners joined the team just two days ago. Junior runner, Alejandra Rodriguez Saldate placed 10th overall with 32:29 over the 5K course. Adam Khan was the lone competitor for the boy's frosh/soph 2.6-mile course. He finished in 24:52. Other GHS girls team members included Angela Gutierrez (27:58), Estrella Favian Mora (34:51), and Denise Bonner (35:55). ★

CAL FIRE Lets It Burn



CALFIRE Chief Norman said the fire was designed to cause the building to fold in on itself. Photo by Seti Long



CALFIRE crews ready for a chance to train at the Live Fire Training Exercise on Monday, February 8th 2021. Photo by Seti Long

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have a job, right, you never know what that job is. So, the fact...you can do everything, every job that's required on a structure fire on one structure in the same day...It's great." Crews also practiced "sweeping" and got to experience and tackle a few "backdrafts" exercises.
The final fire was lit shortly after noon on Monday. Chief Norman said he designed the fire to cause the building to "fold in on

itself like origami" and it basically did. Crews stood back allowing the fire to spread quickly, while keeping water on neighboring businesses to protect from the flames. Chief Norman says the exercise was a success. "It went really well today. We really tried to reduce the impacts on the businesses around us...It was really about waiting for that right weather window and today it opened up, so we went for it. It went clean, easy, down quick...so that's what we wanted." ★

VFW Announces Essay Winners

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Patriots' Pen and Voice of Democracy are national essay contests held annually and sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars. Post 5731 in Gridley sponsors entrants from Biggs, Gridley, and Live Oak schools each year. Cash prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place. VFW Post 5731 celebrates 75 years in service to veterans and the community this month.
The VFW Patriots' Pen winners are:

Sutter Peak Charter Academy in Live Oak: First Place; Jean-Paul Prentice II and 3rd Place: Alexander D. Karanaukh. Rebecca S. Solis took 2nd Place from Sycamore Middle School in Gridley. Voice of Democracy: both winners are from Sutter Peak Charter Academy in Live Oak: 1st Place: Jaymes R. Ozuna-Pond and 2nd Place: Benjamin R. Hoem. There was no third place awarded. ★

Murder Trial Moved to Butte County

By Seti Long

BUTTE, YUBA-SUTTER COUNTIES, CA (MPG) - A high profile murder trial has been moved to Butte County after a change of venue motion was filed by the defense.
Yuba City woman, Constance Addison, is being tried for the death of 13-year-old Alec Flores of Yuba City that occurred on October 7th, 2019. Allegedly, Addison fatally struck and killed Flores while he was walking to

school. Addison was driving intoxicated at the time of the incident and had her own children with her in the vehicle. Addison is facing charges of gross vehicular manslaughter, hit-and-run resulting in death or permanent injury, and misdemeanor child endangerment.
Due to the high-profile nature of the case, defense attorney Roberto Marquez, in agreeance with Deputy District Attorney Diego Heimlich, filed a motion for a "change of

venue" to Judge Laura Davis. Davis granted the change of venue motion on January 12th, even though the Sutter County District Attorney's Office was opposed to the change. The trial will now take place in the Butte County Superior Court.
The trial was originally scheduled to begin in Sutter County in the month of March. Currently, Butte County is working to fit the trial into its schedule with official dates to be released soon. ★

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State Lifts Suspensions of Half a Million Driver's Licenses

By Robert Lewis,
CALMatters.org

More than 400,000 Californians had their driver's licenses reinstated last month after an appeals court ruled that the state was illegally penalizing people who failed to appear in court on costly traffic tickets.

The lawsuit was part of a broader, ongoing effort by legal advocacy organizations to roll back California's traffic fines and court fees, which they contend disproportionately impact low-income residents and communities of color.

More than three million traffic infraction citations are issued in California every year, averaging between \$600 and \$700 each.

California has among the highest traffic ticket penalties in the country due to a litany of state and county add-on fees. A ticket for running a red light – which has a base fine of \$100 – actually costs nearly \$500 because of state and local fees, and more than \$800 if the driver misses a deadline to pay or appear in court.

The ruling “limits this blunt instrument of punishing people for not taking care of traffic tickets when in reality, for many Californians, traffic tickets are simply too expensive to take care of,” said Rebecca Miller, senior attorney at the Western Center on Law and Poverty, one of the organizations that sued the Department of Motor Vehicles.

“Like any state in the country, we have over-policing of lower-income and black and brown communities in California.”

Several Bay Area residents sued the DMV in 2016 when their licenses were suspended after they failed to pay a traffic ticket or appear in court. Last June, a three-judge panel in the First Appellate District ruled in their favor, deciding that the state inappropriately suspended the licenses of drivers without formal notices from traffic courts that their failure to appear was willful.

As a result, the DMV lifted suspensions on 555,000 driver's licenses. Because some had additional suspensions for other reasons, about 426,000 motorists were eligible to have their licenses reinstated, according to the DMV.

Legal aid groups – the Western Center on Law and Poverty, Bay Area Legal Aid, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area and the East Bay Community Law Center – represented the plaintiffs.

The lead plaintiff, Guillermo Hernandez, of Richmond, had been ticketed in 2013 for not updating his driver's license information and driving without a valid registration, court records show.

Hernandez said he tried to go to court to take care of the ticket but was told twice that clerks couldn't find it in the system. It was only later when he tried to renew his license that he discovered there was a hold on it for more than \$900 in fines and fees.

“At that time I just didn't have the money. I didn't have work. That's a lot of money... How am I going to pay it?” he said, speaking in Spanish.

Hernandez had to cut back on his work buying and selling secondhand goods around the area. “I was afraid they would grab



Guillermo Hernandez, who uses his van for his businesses, lost work when his license was suspended in 2013 for failure to pay a ticket. He sued the DMV along with several other Bay Area residents and won. Photo by Anne Wernikoff, CalMatters

me and make me pay more money for tickets,” he said.

Hernandez said he's glad he saw the lawsuit through the appeals court even after his attorney helped him get onto a repayment plan and get his license back before the case concluded.

“I feel really proud that I did something for society,” he said.

The appellate opinion is somewhat narrow and technical: By law the DMV is supposed to suspend a license if it receives a notice from a traffic court that a driver “willfully” violated a written promise to appear in court, according to the opinion. The DMV argued that when it receives notices a driver failed to appear in court that indicates that the actions were willful. The trial court agreed, but the Appeals Court found that the DMV needed a more formal notice that a driver broke the law.

The DMV said in a statement to CalMatters that from now on it “will only impose a (failure to appear) suspension based upon misdemeanor (failure to appear) notifications submitted by the courts.”

But attorneys involved in the case said it's too soon to tell how the case will affect license suspensions going forward.

Fees Tacked onto Traffic Fines

Economic justice advocates and some government officials are examining court fines and fees as part of a national reckoning over racial disparities in the justice system. A growing body of data suggests black and brown drivers are more likely to be pulled over than white motorists, and they often face staggering bills for traffic tickets.

That's because state and local governments have tacked on numerous fees that have nothing to do with traffic violations, said Martin Hoshino, the state Judicial Council's administrative director, who served on a national task force regarding fines, fees and bail practices.

“It became unnerving to think that courts had been turned into revenue centers, and judicial officers were in this really awkward position of perhaps knowing they were imposing a fine or fee for which their court operation was benefiting. I think that's wrong,” Hoshino said.

Records and interviews show fees in criminal court, including for traffic violations, have funded an array of services and projects in California, including court construction, DNA collection, emergency medical

air transport and sunken vessel recovery off the coast.

“When you put all of the decisions together and look at it holistically 30 years later, you find out you've created a regressive, harmful, at times self-defeating revenue system because you're pushing people into debt traps,” Hoshino said.

In addition, “you're not able to collect the debt,” he said. Uncollected debt on court fines and fees doubled over the past decade to roughly \$10 billion in California.

Stacey Kmetz knows about the burden of traffic ticket debt. The San Jose resident, who was out of work and sleeping on a friend's couch, got a nearly \$900 ticket in Marin County for driving without proof of insurance.

“I was really stuck. I asked everybody I knew for help,” Kmetz said.

When she didn't appear in traffic court by the date on her citation, her license was suspended. Kmetz ultimately went to court and got a \$78-a-month payment plan, records show. But the court did not notify the DMV to lift the suspension.

“I pleaded to have that license so I could pay my bills and look for work,” she said. “I was working with two temp agencies who wanted nothing to do with me when I explained the situation.”

Legal Aid attorneys stepped in and got the court to recall the failure-to-appear notification. Kmetz was able to get her license back in October after six months without it.

“It was terrible. The anxiety of the whole dilemma...it was awful,” she said, adding that she's since used her license to work as a driver for some delivery apps.

Pilot Program To Avoid Court Appearances

Lawmakers and court officials have taken some recent steps: They have eliminated license suspensions for failing to pay traffic tickets and developed payment plans.

The court system also developed a pilot project that makes it easier for low-income motorists to request a traffic ticket fee reduction. A website called MyCitations allows motorists to request a reduction online. The courts can consider a driver's income and other information on their ability to pay before deciding whether to lower a penalty.

The virtual ticket system was created so that motorists wouldn't have to appear in person at a courthouse if they wanted to get

their ticket debt reduced.

Many Californians can't afford a day off work to plead their case to a judge. But when they don't pay and don't show up at court, the fines increase, their licenses can be suspended and if they are caught driving on a suspended license, they face criminal charges.

“It's the criminalization of poverty,” said Asher Waite-Jones, staff attorney and clinical supervisor at the East Bay Community Law Center.

The pilot project includes seven counties. Tulare, Shasta and Ventura counties launched the first year, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties are in year two and Fresno and Monterey counties are launching now.

From April 2019 through Nov. 2020, nearly 7,000 drivers requested a fine and fee reduction through the pilot program. More than 85 percent of those drivers reported incomes below the poverty line and their debt was an average of 447 days outstanding, according to a recent report on the project the Judicial Council prepared for the legislature. Three quarters of the requests were approved; the penalty was reduced an average of \$347 per ticket, according to the report.

The governor's current budget proposal includes money to bring the pilot system statewide. Ongoing funding would increase to \$58.4 million by 2024-25.

“It's been really important during the pandemic

because it gives people a way to request a discount without going into traffic court,” said Anne Stuhldreher, director of the financial justice project in the San Francisco treasurer's office. “We should be able to hold people accountable without putting them in financial distress.”

Stuhldreher and legal service attorneys suggest a better fix is doing away with many of the fees. Last year, lawmakers eliminated a number of fees levied in criminal court. Advocates are pushing them to do the same with traffic tickets.

When courts do reduce a driver's ticket penalty, the amount varies, depending on the court and judge; the reduction can be 50 percent in some courts and 80 percent in others.

“Fifty percent is not necessarily meaningful to many of my clients who are homeless or completely destitute,” said Waite-Jones, the East Bay Community Law Center attorney.

The court system administrator, Hoshino, recommends more substantial changes from lawmakers.

But he also worries about how California will make up the revenue for vital services if the fees are slashed. The state collected \$1.4 billion in court fines and fees – all cases, not just traffic-related – in 2018-19.

“If you're going to remove \$1.4 billion for state and local programs, you're either going to end up abolishing those programs or you're going to have to find alternatives,” Hoshino said. ★

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How Long Will California Economy Languish?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

As COVID-19 began surging through California a year ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and ordered widespread restrictions on personal and economic activity to curb infection rates.

His actions immediately triggered a severe economic recession. California had been enjoying record-low unemployment just before the shutdown, 3.9% of the labor force, but within weeks the jobless rate quickly shot up to a record-high 16.4% as employers laid off workers.

Initially, there was a fin- gers-crossed hope that the recession would be what economists call a “V” – a deep plunge followed by an equally rapid recovery. However, as the public health crisis and the recession continued, it became apparent that it would be a “U” – a steep decline that reaches bottom, eventually followed by a gradual recovery.

Employment actually rebounded somewhat during summer and autumn months as Newsom loosened economic controls, although certain sectors such as tourism and travel continued to lag.

However, when infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths shot upward again late in the year – thanks, probably, to too

many holiday gatherings – Newsom clamped down again, businesses closed and joblessness again increased.

The state’s official unemployment rate – the percentage of the labor force not working – edged upward in December to 9% but when those who dropped out of the labor force or were involuntarily working part-time are included, the real rate is more like 15%.

Even without that adjustment, 9% is still very high and, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the third highest of any state. Only tourism-dependent Nevada and Hawaii are higher, with South Dakota and Nebraska at other end of the scale at 3%.

Overall, California has lost 1.5 million jobs in the last year of pandemic and economic turmoil, leaving a salient question hanging in the air: How long will California’s pandemic-induced recession continue?

The answer depends on two unpredictable factors – when and if vaccinations can tame COVID-19 and whether President Joe Biden and Congress pump additional billions, or even trillions, of borrowed dollars into the nation’s economy.

Newsom’s proposed 2021-22 budget projects, “Businesses are expected to continue to operate at limited capacity into 2021. Increased automation and a shift to online retailing will lead to permanent job declines in leisure and hospitality, retail, and other services.”

The budget also implies that the bottom of the “U” will continue for some time, saying, “Nonfarm

employment for California is projected to recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2025.”

The millions of Californians affected by the pandemic’s economic fallout are understandably worried about their futures and their angst is one of the drivers of a petition campaign aimed at recalling Newsom.

Whether from concern for his constituents or worries about a recall, Newsom is proposing “a broad-based recovery package to support businesses, individuals and job creation both during the pandemic and as the state recovers. It totals \$14 billion, including \$3.5 billion in immediate relief for individuals and small businesses disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.”

While Newsom wants fast action from the Legislature, its fiscal advisor, Gabe Petek, wants a more deliberate and skeptical approach, noting that “unlike the federal government – which can run a deficit to pay for fiscal stimulus – the state must balance fiscal stimulus with other one-time and on-going spending priorities.”

In other words, a dollar spent on Newsom’s economic recovery plan is a dollar that can’t be spent on something else – unless, of course, the governor and legislators are also willing to raise taxes. As the pandemic, the recession and the recall campaign evolve, big state stimulus expenditures will be one of the year’s more interesting issues.

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



Farm Employees Begin to Receive Covid-19 Vaccine

The work is just beginning to bring COVID-19 vaccinations to California farm employees, but inoculation clinics have been held on a number of farms. County Farm Bureaus around the state have been coordinating with local public-health agencies to arrange for farm employees to receive vaccines. Local task forces are working to reach farm employees in their native languages with information, so more can receive vaccines as supplies improve.

Storms Add To Water Supply, Snowpack

The atmospheric-river storms that reached California last week brought mostly positive news for California farmers and ranchers. Farmers along the Central Coast, for example, say heavy rains slowed their work for a few days, but brought significant benefits to water supplies. The Sierra Nevada snowpack remains low, but the storms boosted the statewide average snowpack from 45% of average up to 68% in a week’s time.

Number Of Organic Operations Grows

California retains its national lead in the number of organic farms and ranches, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In an annual report from its Organic Integrity Database, the USDA says the number of certified organic farms and ranches in the state exceeds 5,000. California has more than two-and-a-half times the number of organic operations as the No. 2 state, Wisconsin.

Food Waste Could be Reused as Plant Food

Fermented food waste could be used to deliver beneficial bacteria to food plants. Research from the University of California, Riverside, found that beneficial microbes on crops “increased dramatically” when the food waste was added to plant-growing systems in a greenhouse. The researchers say the fermented food waste appears to help plants resist pathogens and could reduce carbon emissions from farming. ★

Planning to Travel Internationally?

By Samantha Mott,
Sacramento International Airport

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - If you are planning to travel internationally please be aware beginning Jan. 26 changes will be made to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (CDC) travel mandates.

Effective January 26, 2021 the CDC will require all international air passengers entering the United States (including U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents) to present a negative COVID-19 test, taken within three calendar days of departure, or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. Airlines must confirm the negative test result or proof of recent recovery for all passengers prior to boarding. Airlines must deny boarding of passengers who do not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery.

Alaska, American, jetBlue, Southwest, Aeromexico and Volaris offer nonstop flights between SMF and destinations throughout Mexico. Please visit our website or contact the airlines for more information about flights <https://sacramento.aero/smf/flight-and-travel/airlines>.

Please contact your airline for more

information about what documentation each specific airline will require.

If you plan to travel internationally please visit the links below for more information about the updated guidelines. <https://coronavirus.gob.mx/>

<https://mx.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>
<https://www.visitloscabos.travel/covid-test>

Travelers are encouraged to contact their accommodations for more specific information about individual locations.

Please see CDC’s FAQ for answers to questions about the new international air travel requirement for proof of negative COVID-19 test or recovery from COVID-19 for all air passengers arriving in the United States.

Travelers should be aware of State and CDC travel guidelines before making the decision to travel. SMF reminds everyone to travel safely and take extra precautions when at the airport. Passengers are required to wear a face coverings and social distance whenever possible throughout their journey. As always, it is recommended travelers arrive early in anticipation of additional security screenings. For more information visit our website. ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

Democrats Seek to Force Big Tech to Police Content More Tightly in Section 230 Reform Bill | 06 Feb 2021 | Democratic lawmakers have introduced a bill to reform Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, seeking to make big tech companies more accountable and force them to **police their content more stringently**. Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) on Friday introduced the Safeguarding Against Fraud, Exploitation, Threats, Extremism and Consumer Harms (SAFE TECH) Act to reform Section 230 and “allow social media companies to be held accountable for enabling cyber-stalking, targeted harassment, and discrimination on their platforms.” ...At a recent hearing on domestic terrorism, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) warned tech companies to police content more tightly or face more stringent government intervention.

Supreme Court to Consider 2020 Election Challenge Lawsuits in February Conference | 06 Feb 2021 | The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday scheduled several high-profile contest-of-election lawsuits, including ones brought by attorneys Sidney Powell and Lin Wood, and the Trump campaign, for consideration at its Feb. 19 conference. According to a case listing, the lawsuits include Sidney Powell’s Michigan case (20-815), the Trump campaign’s Pennsylvania lawsuit (20-845) and Wisconsin lawsuit (20-882), the Pennsylvania lawsuit brought by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.) (20-810), and Lin Wood’s Georgia case (20-799). All cases allege some form of unlawful election-related conduct affecting the result of the election, including expansion of mail-in balloting by elections officials changing rules in contravention of state election laws, lack of adequate security measures around mail ballots, issues with machine vote tabulation, and denial of meaningful access to poll watchers.

Time report touts ‘cabal of of powerful people’ behind ‘conspiracy,’ ‘shadow campaign’ to shape election | 06 Feb 2021 | A report published by Time magazine Friday has delved into a “secret shadow campaign” that, in the publication’s words, “saved the 2020 election.” “A weird thing happened right after the Nov. 3 election: nothing,” Time national political correspondent Molly Ball began her report... According to Ball, the “second odd thing” that happened after the election was that “corporate America turned on” Trump. It was all very, very strange... Within days after the election, we witnessed an orchestrated effort to anoint the winner, even while many key states were still being counted,” Ball quoted Trump as saying Dec. 2. Prominent social media users reacted to the report with alarm. “According to Time the election was ‘Fortified’ but not rigged. Definitely not rigged,” Donald Trump Jr. reacted. “This is insanity, but everyone should read to learn exactly how bad it was.” “@Time comes right out and admits it,” wrote Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo. “Dear God, did they just validate what Trump was saying the whole time??” asked journalist Andray Domise.

Biden administration’s CBP revives ‘catch and release’ policy at border amid COVID concerns | 05 Feb 2021 | A perfect storm of events has the Biden administration’s Customs and Border Protection on its heels in parts of Texas, forcing the agency to begin releasing newly arrived illegal immigrants back into U.S. cities as part of a policy known as “catch and release.” This is the first time since the surge of 2019 that CBP has been compelled to revive the controversial policy. It raises concerns the Biden administration’s softer, more welcoming approach will trigger a wave of migrants from Central America that could overwhelm the agency’s limited detention capacity. This week, President Biden signed immigration-related executive orders, which included revoking then-President Trump’s order ending the so-called “catch and release” policy.

Democrat Introduces Gun Control Bill: Psych Evaluations, Ammo Bans, Federal Gun Registry | 05 Feb 2021 | Democrat Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (TX) introduced a gun control bill near the start of the current Congress that, if passed, could make California’s strict gun control laws seem tame by comparison. H.R.127 states that its purpose is to “provide for the licensing of firearm and ammunition possession and the registration of firearms, and to prohibit the possession of certain ammunition.” The bill calls for the U.S. Attorney General to establish a licensing and registration system through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which would increase the federal government’s ability to monitor gun owners’ purchases and the location of their firearms by requiring them to inform the government of the “make, model, and serial number” of the firearms that they own and adds that the firearm owner must tell the government “where the firearm is or will be stored.” ★

BUTTE COUNTY TO HOST FIRST VIRTUAL WORKSHOP FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

What concerns you most about the climate crisis? Ways to address the changes? Renewable energy? Air quality? Extreme heat? Butte County is updating the County’s 2014 Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Butte County CAP Update is funded by a grant awarded under Senate Bill (SB) 2. The CAP will identify ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Butte County. Reduction targets in the CAP call for a 42 percent reduction below baseline 2006 GHG emission levels by 2030. With your input, the CAP Update will provide Butte County a pathway towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Collaboration is essential to solve the pressing community challenge. Join us to help develop climate strategies that will protect Butte County for generations to come.

Please join us by phone, tablet, or computer for the first virtual public workshop on Thursday, February 18th from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. The agenda includes a project overview presentation followed by question and answer, and small group discussions using the Zoom Breakout Room feature.

To register for the event and learn more about the County’s CAP efforts, visit:
www.buttecounty.net/dds/bccapupdate2020.
You can also **scan the QR code below** with your smartphone to be routed directly to the event registration page:



Gridley Thumbs and Roots Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



By Barbara Ott

One side of fence down! One cap on greenhouse torn apart. One patio shade lifted off of hooks. One plant on a high stand down. How about all of you, with all that wind? I feel fortunate to have only that much damage. I've seen shingles in the streets, no one wants to see that. I had my leaning birch tree trimmed, with winds

in mind and it fared well. My large Abutilon was ruffled up but no real harm. Life moves on and now we have rain. May it continue gently but steadily. No great gushers allowed. No flooding allowed.

Now that I've organized the remainder of winter, I can enjoy this time of Imbolc known as Ground Hog Day. The time of the returning of light and the beginning of Spring. Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

My large shade tree which is an oriental pear is popping blossoms. The bees are doing their best to get at the blooms while being blown around by off again on again, wind. If you love to have early flowers in the

garden, consider planting Camellias, Hellebores and Abutilons. These bloom readily in the Winter. Camellias do very well here if they are in a summer semi shaded place. They like full sun in the winter. Hellebores can be found in nurseries now. They develop more flowers every year. They are a summer shade plant but are great under a deciduous tree. Mine are white and mauve. Wonderful jewels of color on a dark winter day. Abutilons known as flowering maples due to their leaf shape are a must have in the garden. They are willing to bloom most of the year and can take considerable summer sun with a it of afternoon shade. The warmth of the sun is on its way. ★



Slim Randles

One of the problems Marvin Pincus discovered about running the Fly Tying Love Center here in the valley is that there appeared to be more fly tying than love counseling going on.

This particular morning he was whipping up a nice fluffy Adams dry on a number 12 and wishing everyone's love problems were as easy to solve as tying one of these. He takes silent pride in being a pioneer in this field of combining fly tying and romance solutions, but that doesn't mean he couldn't quietly hope for his neighbors to have more love problems. His advice had worked well with Dewey (a lead-wire-wrapped wooly bugger leading to the suggestion he showers

Royal Coachman Streamers on Number Fours!

before he asks a girl out on a date), and with Randy Jones (a pheasant-tail nymph and a Parmachene Belle sending him on his way to girlfriend happiness with Katie Burchell). But there were others out there. There *had* to be others.

The counselors who just sit there taking notes managed to find any number of unhappy potential love victims.

"Marjorie," Marvin said over coffee, "maybe if I offered an incentive, you know? Some little extra that would bring them in for advice?"

"Like what, Honey?"

"Maybe taking some flies that I tied for them and making earrings out of them?"

"The men around here don't really take to wearing earrings."

"I mean, for the women ... you know. Women are the emotional ones who need love advice the most. Everyone knows that."

"How many clients have

you had so far?"

"Well, two."

"Both of them were ...?"

"Men, true. But I'm not sure what I could offer the guys except the flies themselves to use to go fishing."

"That sounds good."

"And the earrings?"

"We could get you some of those fasteners for the earrings, and it would probably be a good idea to cut the points and barbs off them. And I could wear a pair just to start the neighbor ladies talking about it."

"Good idea! I'll tie you up a few right now."

"In that case," Marjorie told her husband, "I've got the ladies club luncheon today and I planned to wear the red outfit..."

"Royal Coachman streamers on number fours! Honey, you're the best."

Brought to you by Strange Tales of Alaska, by Slim Randles for those fireplace nights. Available at Amazon.com. ★

Thoughts to Ponder

by Kathy Neal



Frilly cards, heart-shaped candy, red roses, and songs sung from the heart: February has become known as the "love month". Cards are sent and expressions of joy and love race across the phone lines and internet. More money is sent on this holiday to show and express feelings than at any other time. Isn't it sad that these 28 days could not be spread out over 365 days, year after year?

Have you noticed that temporary peace agreements are drawn up during wars for Christmas and that all the fighting and shelling stops for that day? If it means keeping the decorated tree up all year – let's do it! If it means playing carols and wrapping gifts to keep the world free of war – let's do it!

People at war stop fighting for a time and bombs stop falling as leaders meet and children sleep in peace as warriors stand behind walls waiting for the end of the truce. Isn't it a shame that peace could not be spread over eternity rather than a little pause in time? There is a way – there is an answer.

When people show

their love for each other, it brings out the best in us all. "I love you" carries a magical power that can only be explained in one way: true love over-looks flaws – flaws that cause divisions in society.

We must have a love that is selfless, a love that goes beyond the expected. The prophet Jeremiah foretold of a new covenant (a love) that would be given that was different from the old for it would come from withing a man's heart rather than from obedience to a set of rules and regulations (Jeremiah 31:33). We love truly when we love from within. We love unconditionally, we accept the good with the bad, and accept one another for what we are: imperfect humans.

Jesus reminds us that it takes no great effort to love those within one's circle, but to expect us to love our enemies and the sinners of the world – now that is a bit much! That can only come from within a man's heart, and often, we have hardened our hearts so that love can only squeeze through little by little.

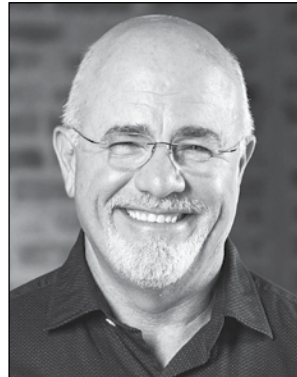
Fear and mistrust have replaced the value of life. The value of life is now expressed on the streets by the amount of money or goods we are worth. Human life is now an expenditure. Drugs, name brand shoes, and

power have diminished life to "street worth." Jesus' life became "street worth" when Judas swapped sliver for His betrayal. But Jesus, even from the cross, asked that man go higher with his love, and forgive. Can you? Are you able to do that? Search your heart – how much value have you placed on life?

Ernest Gordon, Dean of Chapel at Princeton University, live out this kind of life. A prisoner in the infamous Kwai Valley internment camp during WWII, Gordon and his fellow prisoners were reduced to the level of animals through the cruel treatment of their captors. Then the Spirit of God came into the hellish atmosphere, and the men began to care for one another. With the war drawing to an end, the prisoners were in route to a new camp when their train was side railed for a time. Nearby were cars full of sick and dying Japanese soldiers. Neglected by their own, these men were in pathetic state until Gordon and his men began ministering to them. Angered by what he saw an allied officer shouted at them, "You fools! They are the enemy!" to which Gordon replied, "My enemy is my neighbor."

The true meaning of love is that we care for our neighbors, friends, AND enemies!!! ★

Dave Ramsey Says



Put a Little More Thought into It

Dear Dave,

I don't like admitting this, but I absolutely hate my job. Last year I almost cashed out part of my 401(k) to start my own business or open a franchise, and doing something like this is still on my mind. Considering how I feel, do you think this would be a good idea?

– Kurt

Dear Kurt,

In your current state of mind, this entire idea is a trap. Don't misunderstand, I love the idea of someone living their dream and owning their own business. But you just mentioned starting your own business in same breath with opening some sort of franchise. That tells me you don't really know what you want to do.

Have you ever heard someone say they're "going all in"? When

you're playing cards, that means you're about to bet everything on a single hand. But here's the deal, it's never smart to go all in when it comes to small business. That's a good way to turn a dream into a nightmare.

I'm urging you to really think about this before you take action. You didn't mention anything about your financial situation, other than you have a 401(k). That's a good thing, but if it's all you have – and you don't have any other savings set aside – you could be in real trouble. If you decided to leave your job, and your idea for your own business doesn't pan out, you've lost a chunk of your retirement savings. It's gone for good. Bankruptcy also becomes a real possibility. Opening a business just because you don't like your current job, or you're angry at "the man," is a bad idea. You need to find something you truly love doing, because to have any chance of success you'll have to live and breathe that business day and night, seven days a week.

Don't make any rash decisions about your current job right now. If you really want to start your

own business, begin by doing a lot of research, saving as much money as you can, and thinking about things you could do for a living that would make you smile every day. Once you figure that out, the next step is devising a plan that will allow you to open a business without putting your entire financial world in danger. In other words, how can you start small with the money you have, instead of damaging your retirement funds or taking out a loan?

It's not an either/or proposition, Kurt. You don't have to risk it all to get away from a job you hate and into one you love!

–Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

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SPARKY'S CORNER

Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your everyday routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

Dryers should be properly grounded.

Check the outdoor vent flap to make sure it is not covered by debris.

Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

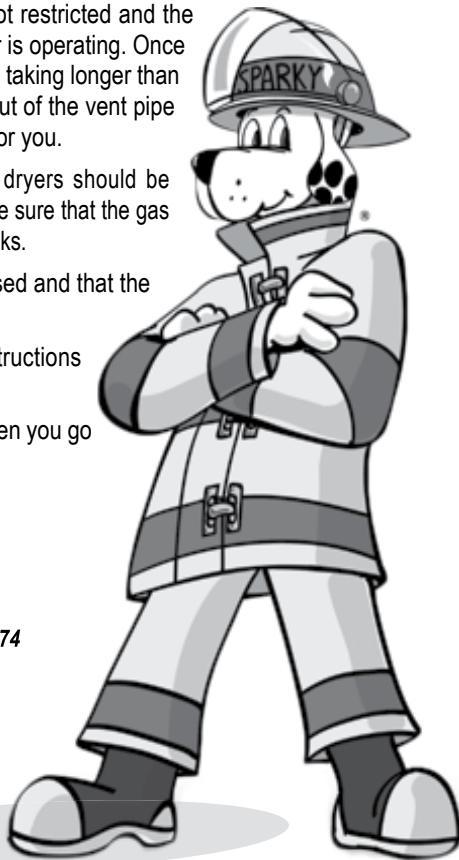
Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

- The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.
- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.



Thank You,
Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74



Dear Dietitian

Internet Influencer



Commentary
by Leanne McCrate

Dear Dietitian:

I suffer from binge eating. I hired an internet influencer who claimed to be a nutrition coach for people with eating disorders. He gave me a strict meal plan and exercise routine. I asked what I should do when I have cravings to binge. He said not to worry, just follow the meal plan. I told him I thought I needed more to eat, but he wouldn't adjust my calorie level. This whole plan ended in disaster for me. What can I do? He refuses to give me a refund!

Cassy

Dear Cassy,

First of all, I want to say I'm sorry this happened to you. Unfortunately, these things happen with nutrition because there are so many "magic bullets" marketed by charlatans that people don't know what to believe.

Another reason for the confusion is many people do not realize who the nutrition expert is. A Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) is a protected title that ensures the professional is qualified. That said, other professionals are legitimate, but you may have to ask a few questions to determine authenticity. Ask about their education. They should have at least a bachelor's degree in nutrition or another related field. Ask about their credentials and state licensure. There should be no hesitation or defensiveness on the part of the nutrition professional. If there is, be wary.

Licensure is required to practice

nutrition in 47 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. If your state requires dietitian licensure, you can report this incident to the state licensure board for dietitians. You may also report your experience to your state's Attorney General. The Better Business Bureau also receives complaints of this nature.

The good news is there is help. Binge eating is now recognized as an eating disorder. It is listed in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) along with other eating disorders, such as bulimia and anorexia nervosa. This means you can receive treatment, and insurance will cover part of the cost.

Optimal treatment results are achieved through a team approach, and outpatient programs are available. Your team may consist of a physician, a dietitian, a psychologist, and an exercise physiologist. Each team member brings his or her expertise to deal with all aspects of the illness.

I recommend checking into Overeaters Anonymous (OA), a 12-step recovery group that uses the same steps as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). In OA, it is suggested that you find a sponsor to help guide you through the steps. You will also decide on a food plan that works for you.

Equally important, you will find that you are not alone. There will be people with the same problem, and you may develop friendships on your road to recovery. Search the internet for meetings or call (505) 891. 2664. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there are numerous meetings online.

Until next time, be healthy!
Dear Dietitian

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. ★

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS
1. Newton's first name
 6. Part of smog
 9. Hissy fit
 13. Human trunk
 14. Form of "to be"
 15. Illegal booze
 16. Editorial changes
 17. Crematorium jar
 18. #56 Down, alt. sp.
 19. *One of six Presidents named James
 21. *First President previously divorced
 23. Civil War's Johnny
 24. Manage without help
 25. Military procedures
 28. Cone-shaped quarters
 30. MLB bench
 35. Cowboy's necktie
 37. A whole lot
 39. *Whig, e.g.
 40. Resembling wings
 41. Nightly necessity
 43. Experience emotion
 44. Large ray
 46. Glacier's deposit
 47. "Watch out!" on a golf course
 48. Traditional sock pattern
 50. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
 52. Knight's title
 53. Bypass
 55. Foot digit
 57. *President Chester
 60. *He signed legislation to create Medicare
 64. Fauna, Merryweather and _____, fairy godmothers
 65. Expert
 67. Convex molding
 68. Bumpkins
 69. Café alternative
 70. Car ways
 71. Trans-Siberian Railroad city
 72. Piercing part
 73. Slightly drunk
- DOWN
1. Any thing
 2. *Trump had button on desk to order his favorite one
 3. Desertlike
 4. Up and about
 5. Coddle
 6. Half-man, half-goat
 7. Legendary NHLer
 8. Tragedy, or comedy, or satire
 9. Cheap form of payment?
 10. Before Scotia
 11. Clickable picture
 12. Olden day "your"
 15. Be in charge, two words
 20. Newspaper notices
 22. What all of #70 Across do
 24. Painting or poetry
 25. *He beat McCain and Romney
 26. Kind of cap
 27. Colloquialisms
 29. *First "dark horse"
 31. Gamecock's spur
 32. Dessert sandwiches
 33. Wombs
 34. *#29 Down predecessor
 36. Creative
 38. 18-wheeler
 42. Green pasta sauce
 45. Big Island greetings
 49. Australian flightless bird
 51. Group of people, often in research
 54. Extremely angry
 56. Concluding stanza in poetry
 57. *G. W. Bush to Yale, e.g.
 58. Schneider and Lowe, e.g.
 59. Major bike maker
 60. Audience's rejection
 61. Sold in bars
 62. Auto pioneer
 63. Like a busybody
 64. Back, to a pendulum
 66. Latin dance three-step move, once

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
16					17			18			
19					20			21	22		
					23			24			
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32	33
35				36		37		38		39	
40					41			42		43	
44					45			46		47	
48					49			50		51	52
					53			54		55	56
					57	58	59			60	61
64						65	66		67		
68						69			70		
71						72			73		



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8			7	5			4
			9		7		
	9			6	8	5	
1					5		
	2	3			1	8	
		8					7
9	1		2			5	
		6		3			
5			1	9			3

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
For Solutions See Page 7

Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

I	S	A	A	C		F	O	G		S	N	I	T
T	O	R	S	O		A	R	E		H	O	O	C
E	D	I	T	S		U	R	N		E	N	V	O
M	A	D	I	S	O	N		R	E	A	G	A	N
					R	E	B		F	E	N	D	
O	P	S			T	I	P	I		D	U	G	O
B	O	L	A		T	O	N	S		P	A	R	T
A	L	A	R		S	L	E	E	P		F	E	E
M	A	N	T	A		K	A	M	E		F	O	R
A	R	G	Y	L	E		R	I	S	C		S	I
					O	M	I	T		T	O	E	
					A	R	T	H	U	R		J	O
F	L	O	R	A		A	C	E		O	V	O	L
R	U	B	E	S		T	H	E		R	O	A	D
O	M	S	K			E	A	R		T	I	P	S

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

8	6	2	7	5	1	3	9	4
3	1	5	9	8	4	7	6	2
7	9	4	3	6	2	8	1	5
1	7	9	2	3	8	5	4	6
6	2	3	4	7	5	1	8	9
4	5	8	1	9	6	2	3	7
9	3	1	6	2	7	4	5	8
2	8	6	5	4	3	9	7	1
5	4	7	8	1	9	6	2	3

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000045

The following persons are doing business as: **SYCAMORE AND BELLE**
64 Magnesio Street Oroville, CA 95965
Brianna Romo, 64 Magnesio Street Oroville, CA 95965
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 11, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/11/2021
 This Business is Conducted by: Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: January 22, 29 February 5, and 12, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000030

The following persons are doing business as: **BLACKBERRY BUTTE FARMS**
4460 Myvalli Drive Butte Valley, CA 95965
Lindsey Carrico and Nicholas Carrico, 4460 Myvalli Drive Butte Valley, CA 95965
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 8, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/6/2021
 This Business is Conducted by: A Married Couple

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: January 29 February 5, 12, and 19, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000127

The following persons are doing business as: **SAUL'S SMOG AND AUTO REPAIR**
1814 Hwy 99 Gridley, CA 95948
Yolanda Fletes, 1654 9th Avenue Olivehurst, CA 95961
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 27, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000129

The following persons are doing business as: **ELLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS**
2720 Cohasset Road Suite B Chico, CA 95973
Ellen Shepherd, 2513 El Paso Way Chico, CA 95973
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 28, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 2/2/2015
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000079

The following persons are doing business as: **ALL ABOUT YOU MOVING AND HAULING**
11584 Dairy Road Chico, CA 95973
Jesse Taylor Chambers, 11584 Dairy Road Chico, CA 95973
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 15, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000054

The following persons are doing business as: **EAST BIGGS MINI STORAGE**
428 Biggs East Highway Biggs, CA 95917
Lana Kay Gonzalez and Sergio Gonzalez, 426 Biggs East Highway Biggs, CA 95917
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 12, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 11/6/1989
 This Business is Conducted by: A Married Couple

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: January 22, 29 February 5, and 12, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000082

The following persons are doing business as: **DON J TRUCKING**
42 Lauren Way Oroville, CA 95965
Don Ellis Miller, 42 Lauren Way Oroville, CA 95965
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 15, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: January 29 February 5, 12, and 19, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE #21CV00119

1. Petitioner **Cassandra Jo Klein** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **Proposed name**
Cassandra Jo Klein **Charlotte Marie Galway**

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing March 17, 2021 9:00 a.m. Department TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
 Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000076

The following persons are doing business as: **MOUNTAIN TIME PHOTOGRAPHY**
1301 Bennett Road Paradise, CA 95969
Kaleigh Gomez, 1301 Bennett Road Paradise, CA 95969
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 15, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000141

The following persons are doing business as: **OUR TOWN PIZZERIA**
950 Hazel Street Gridley, CA 95948
Our Town Pizzeria LLC, 11584 Dairy Road Chico, CA 95973
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 29, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/29/2021
 This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE #21CV00052

1. Petitioner **Elizabeth Anne Russell** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **Proposed name**
Elizabeth Anne Russell **Anne Elizabeth Russell**

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing March 10, 2021 9:00 a.m. Department TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
 Publish: January 22, 29 February 5, and 12, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000075

The following persons are doing business as: **RIO BONITO FARM**
206 W Rio Bonito Road Biggs, CA 95917
Travis Eugene Smith and Amy Maureen Smith, 206 W Rio Bonito Road Biggs, CA 95917
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 14, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/4/2021
 This Business is Conducted by: A Married Couple

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: January 29 February 5, 12, and 19, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000027

The following persons are doing business as: **D AND M CONSTRUCTION, E AND A HAULING AND LANDSCAPING**
6754 Citrus Avenue Oroville, CA 95966
Ramiro Rodriguez Medrano, 6754 Citrus Avenue Oroville, CA 95966
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 7, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-0000131

The following persons are doing business as: **CE PROPERTY AND APPRAISALS**
12 Feathervale Drive Oroville, CA 95966
Curtis Daniel Engen, 12 Feathervale Drive Oroville, CA 95966
 Date Filed in Butte County: January 28, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
 Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE #21CV00168

1. Petitioner **Takuya Mei** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **Proposed name**
Takuya Mei **Takuya Umebara**

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing March 10, 2021 9:00 a.m. Department TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
 Publish: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021 (The Gridley Herald)



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Eckert Still Working for Gridley

Continued from page 1
between Gridley and the NCPA was, a job that Mayor Johnson says is easily a 40-50 hours a week commitment. “It is the number one committee, the most important committee, in fact, that’s one of the most important items, or one of the most important things involving the city. It is our lifeblood basically,” Bruce Johnson says. “When Paul had resigned the council agreed that we would retain him on a separate contract to represent

us at NCPA.” To be clear, the council he refers to was that of the previous term: Ray Borges, Quinten Crye, Chris Williams, Zach Torres, and himself. The reason: “Because there’s nobody else,” says Mayor Johnson, “There’s nobody else that could have fit that slot, because of all the information that it takes” and is knowledgeable about the dealings with the NCPA over the past 4 years. Councilmember Sanchez, who broke the news to the public, says she plans

to address the issue at the February 16th meeting and has published a series of questions she intends to pose regarding Eckert’s current position. When we asked Mayor Johnson, now that Eckert has been cleared of any illegal charges, if the Gridley City Council would entertain reinstalling Eckert as City Administrator again, Mayor Johnson said, “No. That’s what takes the majority vote, and I can tell you right now that probably is not going to happen.” ★

City Administrator Paul Eckert Found Innocent

Eckert Family Press Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Test results have proven that former City Administrator Paul Eckert did not have any alcohol or drugs in his system in October when pulled over in Gridley by the Highway Patrol. Charges have been dismissed. Court proceedings had been repeatedly delayed due to COVID19.

Mr. Eckert is now considering legal action against the Highway Patrol for the botched process and his family’s long-term loss of employment income. Eckert said that he’s worked very closely with law enforcement for 30 years and had never heard of such terrible performance.

Eckert was making the 5-minute drive from his home in Gridley to his office at Gridley City Hall to collect some necessary items required to work on City business at home. It’s well known that Eckert worked 50 to 60 hours weekly, including weekends and late nights. Eckert was pulled over going east bound on Sycamore Street, near City Hall.

Eckert assumed it was Gridley PD. He introduced himself, thinking it was a GPD Officer. Eckert said that “he and others consider it unusual for the Highway Patrol to be working in the middle of Gridley”. Within two minutes he was asked to take a field sobriety test.

Eckert has said that “they were trying hard to find something wrong when there was clearly nothing wrong”. The field testing showed zero alcohol. “It was bizarre that they then wanted to assume I was on meth.



Paul Eckert. Photo: City of Gridley

I told the officer he was nuts and reminded him that he was in sleepy quiet Gridley.”

There was a rush to judgment due to Eckert’s prominent role in the community. The social media response appeared largely impacted by the Council election. Eckert subsequently resigned his position.

It’s been unfortunate for Paul Eckert and his family that he was placed in a spotlight due to what he calls “the Highway Patrol’s botched process”. The event resulted in baseless and highly impactful false social media claims. Eckert has stressed all along that “there was nothing out of the ordinary that night in contrast to baseless politically convenient wild speculations”. Eckert believes “that the false rumors were politically motivated”.

Eckert is widely

considered by veteran City staff to be their best-ever City Administrator. He is considered by City staff, who’ve spent thousands of hours with him, as highly ethical, professional, and appropriate with everyone.

Paul Eckert consistently received very high rankings by the City Council, including as recently as the month before his resignation. Eckert implemented an array of positive changes, some of which predictably resulted in community pushback. As City Administrator, Eckert also routinely took the heat for City Councilmembers’ actions.

Consistent with his high levels of dedication and professionalism over the past four and half years, Eckert has dedicated himself to assisting the Council and staff as they go through a leadership transition. ★

No Charges for Former Gridley City Administrator

Butte County District Attorney's Office

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Paul Eckert, 58, was stopped at 12:05 a.m. on October 3, 2020 by the California Highway Patrol in the city of Gridley for having no taillights. During the initial interaction with Eckert the officer noticed the physiological indicators that suggested he might be under the influence of a controlled substance, not alcohol.

A number of field sobriety tests were given to Eckert, which were not performed satisfactorily. This, combined with the physical manifestations, led the officer to conclude Eckert’s ability to safely operate a motor vehicle was impaired. As a result Eckert was arrested for driving

under the influence of a drug. A blood sample was collected and later analyzed, which revealed that Eckert had ingested a prescribed medication. No alcohol was detected in the blood sample.

Upon further investigation it was discovered that some of the rare and unexpected side effects of that medication (e.g. racing heartbeat) were the same as those observed by the officer and mimicked the symptoms of commonly abused drugs. Furthermore, there was an absence of other evidence of impairment, such as poor driving. The district attorney’s office has therefore declined to charge Eckert with driving under the influence, which requires a knowing ingestion of drugs known to cause impairment in a driver’s ability to control a vehicle. ★

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TRUSTEE SALE NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
TS No. CA-20-885507-AB Order No.: 02-20020791 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/23/2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): DIANA MILLASOVICH, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN Recorded: 9/26/2019 as Instrument No. 2019-0042661 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of BUTTE County, California; Date of Sale: 2/24/2021 at 3:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Main Entrance of the Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$209,290.34 The purported property address is: 11360 SIESTA CIRCLE, CLIPPER MILLS, CA 95930 Assessor's Parcel No.: 073-240-008-000 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may

be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-20-885507-AB. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-20-885507-AB to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must

send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: Quality Loan Service Corporation 2763 Camino Del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-20-885507-AB IDSPub #0173057 Publish Dates: January 29, February 5, and 12, 2021 **MILLASOVICH 2-12-21**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
Robert Ross Honan
CASE No. 21PR00048

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both of Robert Ross Honan deceased
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Judy Jennings, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Gary Honan be appointed as personal representative to administer the

estate of the decedent.
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows March 2, 2021 9:00 a.m. in Dept TBA. at Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Judy Jennings
PO Box 726
Folsom, CA 95763
530-864-4745
Publish: February 12, 19, and 26, 2021
HONAN 170622 2-26-21

Summons

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER:
19CV00997
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
Esteban Alvarado Jr aka Esteban Alvarado, Joanna Alvarado
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY
PLAINTIFF: Butte County Credit Bureau A Corp
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Joseph L Selby (#249546) Law Offices of Ferris & Selby 2607 Forest Avenue Suite 130 Chico, CA 95928
Tel: 530-366-4290
Date: (Fecha) 03/29/2019
Clerk (Secretario) R Phillips, Deputy (Adjunto)
January February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021
ALVARADO 3-5-21

Lt. Scott Bennett to Speak at Feather River Tea Party Patriots

Feather River Tea Party Patriots

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Feather River Tea Party Patriots announced Lt. Scott Bennett, former U.S. Army Special Operations Officer and Psychological Warfare Analyst, will be the Special Guest Speaker at their next meeting, Monday, February 15, 2021.

In 2011, Lt. Scott Bennett, former U.S. Army Special Operations Officer and Psychological Warfare Analyst, worked in the highest levels of counterterrorism, intelligence, and politics in Washington DC. After filing intelligence analysis reports exposing illegal terrorist finance corruption and money-laundering operations involving the Clinton Foundation, the law firm Covington and Burling, the Department of Justice (Eric Holder, Lanny Breuer, Loretta Lynch, Kevin Downing), Saudi Arabia-Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood, US Central Command, and the international defense contractor, Booz Allen Hamilton, Lt. Bennett was threatened and imprisoned on trumped-up charges by the Obama administration.

Lt. Bennett exposed “domestic enemies” who had subverted the U.S. Constitution and betrayed the American people. It was in the traumatic silence of jail and agony of isolation that he was able to synthesize his past work, contacts, experience, and intelligence research to discover the real story behind Booz Allen Hamilton, the Carlyle Group, and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and give the American people the truth they always suspected.

The compilation of reports and letters to Congress and intelligence materials (unclassified) is told in his book “SHELL GAME.”

Autographed copies of his book will be available at the meeting. Contact info available at: www.shellgamewhistleblower.com.

Lt. Bennett has been a frequent visitor to the White House and various trips to the Middle East, including Iran. Last month, he worked with General Michael Flynn’s team and others in Washington DC examining the evidence and affidavits from technical experts who provided proof of not only election fraud, but of treason, espionage, and cyber warfare attacks. The materials provided by military personnel, cryptologists, attorneys, and analysts prove beyond any doubt that the November 3, 2020, election was a corrupt fraud and act of high treason. He sat down with experts over several weeks and saw amazing things, documents, videos, and other materials that both enraged and nauseated him. So damaging were the materials they were analyzing, the CIA hacked into their phones and computers, planted microphones, set up “honey traps,” and broke into their hotel rooms searching for their evidence. As a result, they were moved around to different hotels every few days surrounded by Navy SEALs, U.S. Marshalls, and Special Forces soldiers. Lt. Bennett will discuss his past experiences and recent findings from his assignment in Washington DC.

There is no membership requirement to attend, and everyone is welcome. Doors open at 6:00 pm; meeting begins promptly at 6:30 pm. Come early to register, socialize with like-minded patriots, and get a good seat.

The meeting will be Monday, February 15, 2021, at Crossroads Community Church, 445 B Street, Yuba City, CA. Contact Larry or Carla at (530) 755-4409. ★

Reel Book Society — Calling Book Lovers and Film Enthusiasts!



Shawntay is the Arts in Education Coordinator and Social Media Manager for Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture. Photo credit YSAC

By David Read, Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Reel Book Society is the new and improved version of the traditional book club. In the Society, we will read a book and then watch a film adaptation of that book to discuss as a group. The Reel Book Society blends book and film analysis to interact with familiar forms of entertainment and media in an engaging way. If you enjoy the written word and the art of film, you will find a community with us.

Most people have a New Year’s resolution that involves taking the time to read more, but the motivation to do it is where it becomes difficult. Community is the easiest way to fulfill this goal especially during the time of COVID-19. Motivation is at a low for many of us who miss social interactions, so let the Society be your friend group outside of daily obligations.

The first question we get is “What will the Society be reading?” and the short answer is a little bit

of everything! The Reel Book Society will explore any and every genre from romance, fantasy, sci-fi, young adult, horror and more. Here are the first three books the society will be exploring: Emma by Jane Austen, Holes by Louis Sachar, Stardust by Neil Gaiman and Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly.

Our hosts for the Reel Book Society are Shawntay Arroyo and London Donson.

Shawntay is the Arts in Education Coordinator and Social Media Manager for Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture. Her love of the written word is obvious by her bookcase crammed with books and her B.A. in Literature. She loves to explore stories that give a unique perspective on daily life.

London Donson has a B.A. in Rhetorical Communication and spent most of his academic career analyzing popular media. He loves stories that compel him to ask questions about society and the complexities of the human experience.

To sign up and join the Reel Book Society, email shawntay@yubasutterarts.org. The group will be starting the first book “Emma” on February 1st, but we will continue to take people throughout the month of February!

For more information about other 2021 programs during our 40th anniversary year, contact Yuba Sutter Arts at 530-742-ARTS or email david@yubasutterarts.org.

Yuba Sutter Arts is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide arts programming, education, advocacy, assistance and service to artists, organizations and residents of Yuba and Sutter Counties. The official agency for Yuba and Sutter of the California Arts Council, its programs include the Yuba Sutter Youth Choir, the Women's Creative Circle, Shakespeare Readers’ Theatre, Arts in Education, Very Special Arts Festival, Art Crawl, “Stand as I” Open Mic Nights, Harvest the Arts, Arts in Corrections, Third Sunday Jazz Jam, Art Everywhere and much, much more! ★

Proposition 19 Puts Family Legacies at Risk



Senator Ted Gaines

Commentary by Ted Gaines

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A massive change to property tax law is coming soon that could cost families thousands of dollars a year and affect how parents and grandparents pass down properties through generations.

Proposition 19, passed by California voters last November, makes major adjustments to the “parent-child” and “grandparent-grandchild” exclusions, all to the harm of taxpayers. Prior to Prop. 19, parents and grandparents could transfer their principal residence to a child or grandchild with no value limit and without adjusting the property tax base-year value, meaning that the child or grandchild would not be saddled with a huge new property tax assessment when they became owner. The person receiving the property could live there, rent it out, use it as a second home, or let it sit empty – there were no restrictions on property use to qualify for the exemption.

Prop. 19 changes all of that. Once the new law goes into effect on February 16, 2021, the unlimited value provision disappears. The new formula will be the current taxable value of the property plus one-million dollars. This change will hit many coastal property

owners in the pocketbook as they inherit or receive property that appreciated wildly in California’s multi-decade housing boom. Modest homes in Silicon Valley neighborhoods owned and transferred by middle-class families will face stratospheric tax bills under the new regime.

As bad as that will be, it is another provision that is more likely to cause havoc and financial loss for many Californians. Under Prop. 19, a person receiving property under one of these exclusions must now use the property as their primary residence to qualify. That means if you have moved to a different city, you would have to move back and occupy the home to receive the exemption. It means that if you are happy with your current home, you would have to give it up and move to qualify for the exemption.

The date these changes go into effect is right around the corner. If you are planning on transferring property to a child or grandchild, please be aware of the very different landscape that awaits you and them after February 16.

There are a thousand unanswered questions regarding these changes that are not clarified in the proposition language. What happens if multiple children receive a property but only one makes it a primary residence, for example? What happens if someone qualifies for the exclusion, then moves out of the primary residence for a time, then moves back in? Does the exemption kick back in or is it lost forever? It was an initiative written with little concern for detail.

Proposition 19 does provide some new and welcome benefits for California

taxpayers, most notably that it allows certain property owners to transfer their base-year tax assessment to all 58 counties. This allows homeowners who want to downsize, move closer to their children, or relocate for any other reason to keep a lower property tax. Prior to Prop. 19, that benefit was only available within counties or in a handful of counties that accepted base-year transfers. Taxpayers can now also use that transfer provision three times instead of the one-time, geographically limited use in prior law.

Although I favor the base-year transfer provisions, I oppose this new tax increase, which will take hundreds of millions of dollars a year from Californians inheriting their family’s biggest asset. But it’s now the law, and as a Board of Equalization Member and taxpayer advocate, I will be seeking to identify every area where Prop. 19 is unclear and am committed to working with the legislature, county assessors, tax professionals and taxpayers to ensure effective administration of this new law.

Visit my website at boe.ca.gov/gaines for more information on Prop. 19 and for examples of how the new law would affect passed-down properties. Please consult a qualified attorney or tax professional for advice on transferring any property.

Senator Ted Gaines was elected to represent the Board of Equalization's First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly ten million constituents in 30 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. For more information, visit boe.ca.gov/Gaines. ★

Looming Tax Tsunami Requires Immediate Action to Protect Unemployed

By Jacqui Nguyen, Senate Republican Caucus

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Senate Republicans are concerned about the looming tax tsunami facing unsuspecting and unemployed Californians stemming from mismanagement and fraud in the state’s Unemployment Insurance program. Senate Republicans delivered a letter to Governor Newsom urging him to take immediate action to help those innocent victims.

Californians will begin receiving 1099-G tax forms summarizing their taxable earnings from unemployment benefits. Not only will the tax bill come as a shock to recipients, there is a distinct possibility many victims of fraud will be left on the hook for taxes on money never received. The Employment Development Department (EDD) has struggled to do even the slightest thing right during the pandemic and to think this agency could straighten this out on its own prior to tax day is unfathomable.

By the end of 2020, EDD had paid out \$10.4 billion in benefits to claimants whose identities were unverified and that figure could climb as high as \$30 billion. This resulted in frozen bank accounts, stalled benefit payments and a variety of other problems each of our offices has been tirelessly working to help these individuals with over the last ten months. The Auditor’s report last week

underscored Californians’ worst nightmare by pointing out the potential problems with regard to tax liability. Without immediate action by the Governor and our federal representatives, innocent people will be left to fight the IRS over tax liabilities for benefits they never received.

Senate Republicans share the auditor’s concerns, and want to ensure the Newsom Administration is taking every action possible to enact the auditor’s recommendation to promptly assist victims of identity theft and help them avoid tax liabilities for unreceived benefits. April 15 is just a few months away and Republicans are rightfully concerned the agency will be unable to effectively address this new challenge.

An excerpt of the letter is below. For the full letter visit cssrc.us/sites/default/files/210202_EDD-Fraud-Tax-Liability-Audit.pdf.

... As we enter the tax filing season, many Californians will be surprised to learn that they have tax liabilities for UI benefits that were fraudulently claimed in their name. This is because 1099-G forms will soon be arriving in the mailboxes of taxpayers who were victims of identity fraud. Even more concerning is that there will be victims of identity fraud who will have no idea why they even received one of these forms until after they file taxes. This is because EDD is generally going to mail the 1099-G to the most recent addresses of record, which

are the ones the bad actors used to obtain UI benefits.

The State Auditor shares our concern for the tax liabilities for victims of this identity theft and recommends that EDD should prepare to assist victims of identity theft to ensure that they receive prompt assistance and avoid tax liabilities for benefits they never received. Specifically, the auditor recommends that EDD must prepare to respond to victims of identity theft who receive incorrect tax forms, and should, by mid-February 2021, provide information on its website and set up a separate email box for such individuals to contact EDD and receive prompt resolution. We wholeheartedly agree with this recommendation, but remain skeptical about the agency’s ability to do it effectively, if at all. Our offices are currently hearing from the same amount of constituents as we did last spring, who are seeking help from EDD because of problems with identity verification, backlogged claims, and frozen accounts. ...

Last week, Senate Republicans requested legislative leadership for an immediate oversight hearing to discuss ways to implement the State Auditor’s recommendations. An oversight hearing was held on Wednesday, February 3 with the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) and the Assembly Insurance Committee. ★

CALL 530-846-3661

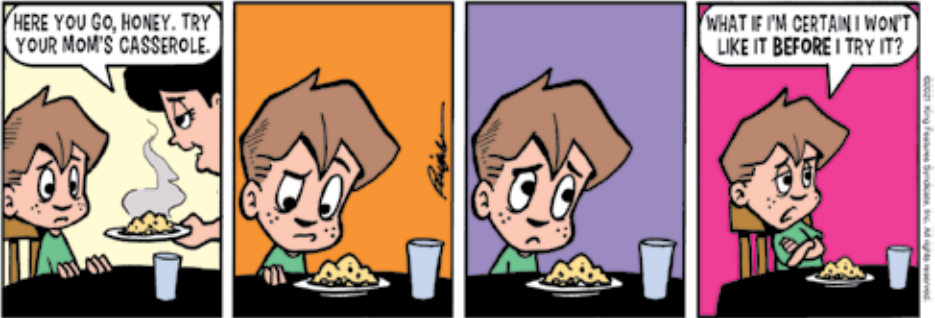


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WEEKLY COMICS

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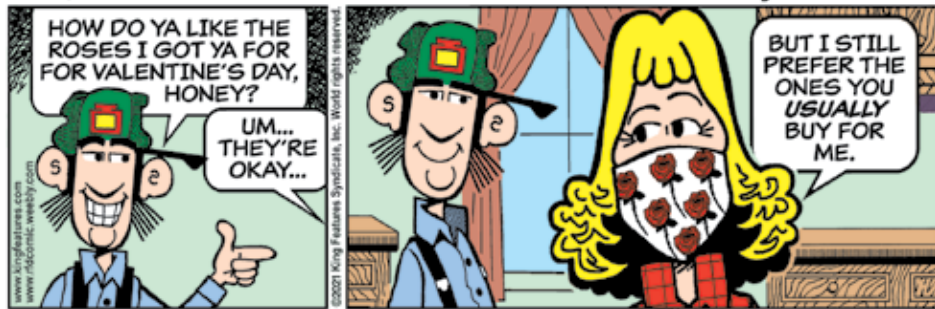
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



CRIM & BIAR IT

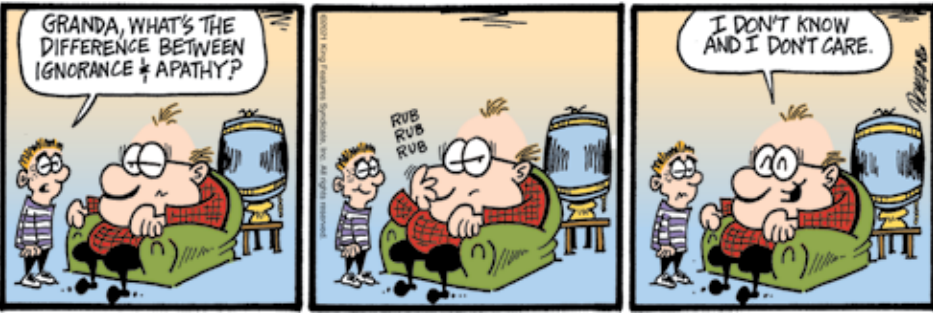


LAFF-A-DAY



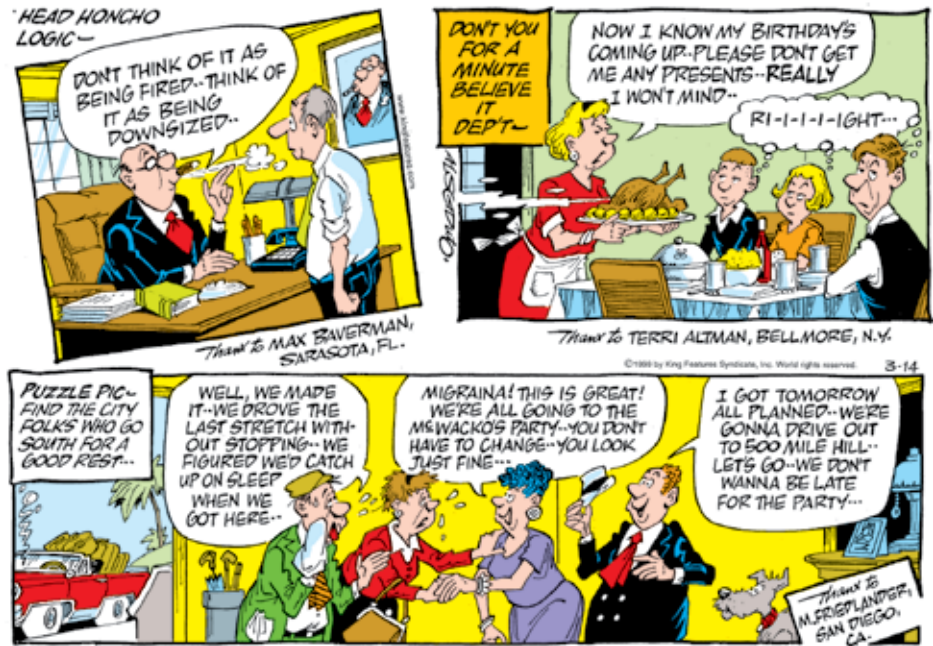
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



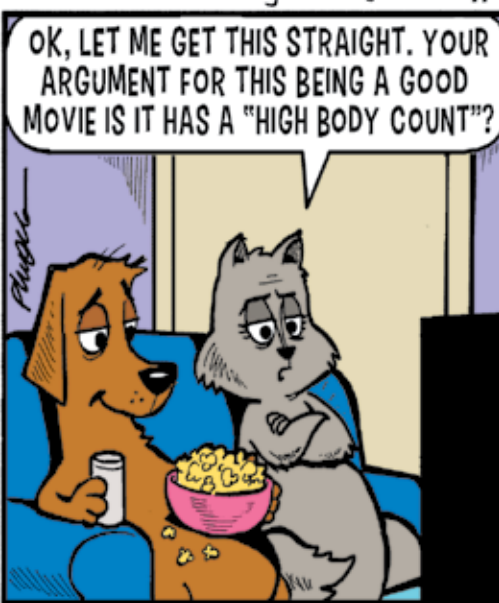
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



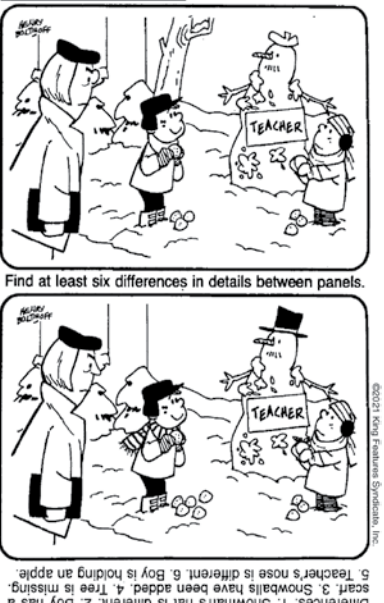
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Cybersecurity for Your Business

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Butte College SBDC is hosting a FREE Zoom Webinar to help business owners and customers stay safe from cyber threats (see details below).

Cybersecurity is a critical piece of all businesses, especially small businesses. Most business owners do not understand Cybersecurity, let alone new technologies to keep their businesses safe from cyber threats. During this webinar, we will provide some definitions to help you understand what cybersecurity is, why cybersecurity is important for small businesses, and review data security and consumer privacy, which small businesses may be legally required to follow. Focus will also include various types of cyber-attacks, ways of protecting your small business from cyber threats (cyber defense), strategies and resources for developing and implementing cybersecurity plans, frameworks, policies and contacts related to cybercrime reporting, Federal agencies, and related resources to use in meeting your cybersecurity needs.

COVID-19 Business Re-opening Strategies

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Butte College SBDC is hosting a FREE Zoom Webinar to help businesses recover successfully from the pandemic (see details below).

Are you a business that has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic? Are you ready to reopen and work on the success of your business in 2021? Are you uncertain as to whether or not you can reopen or where to begin? This webinar will prepare you for the uncertainties and processes needed to recover from the pandemic safely and successfully. Topics covered will range from business re-opening assessments and developing a plan, to looking at current business strategies, and how pivoting your business might help in meeting the new demands placed on businesses due to the pandemic. Discussions will also include understanding your cash flow, financial strength, profitability, opportunities relating to re-opening, and looking at whether or not you are ready to handle the change in your business strategies. At the end of the training you will understand obstacles, if any, to re-opening, how to develop your plan, and laws regulating your re-opening efforts.

TO REGISTER TO EITHER WEBINAR:

CALL: (530) 895-9017

EMAIL: konuwaso@butte.edu

LOG ONTO: www.buttecollegesbdc.com/calendar

Instructions: When you register for these webinars, a webinar link will be emailed to you prior to the event. This training is an online webinar Only.



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