



THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 10, 2017 • VOL. 137 NO. 12

LOCAL BRIEFS

Last chance to buy bricks in Daddow Park

The Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce will send the final order for memorial bricks to be placed in Daddow Park on February 15, 2017.

Deadline to submit an order form and pay \$35 is February 14, 2017 with no exceptions.

The first order has been installed in the park which is in it's final stages of completion awaiting the contractor Lamon Construction's final touches.

Call 846-3142 for more information or visit the Chamber office at 890 Hazel Street in the Hazel Hotel Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10 a.m., to 2 p.m.

Manzanita 4-H meeting

The monthly meeting of the Manzanita 4-H will be held at the school Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7 p.m., and anyone interested in joining is invited to attend. Contact leaders Jennifer Horton at 370-4084 or Alison Jones at 218-6158 for more information.

Chamber Meet and Greet Wednesday

The Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce will hold their second Meet and Greet coffee hour Wednesday, February 15, 2017 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., with refreshments.

Chamber members, business owners or managers and community members are welcome to attend at the Chamber office in the Hazel Hotel, 890 Hazel Street and bring your business card to enter into a drawing.



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Oroville Dam's Spillway damaged in water releases

In a press conference held Tuesday night, officials with the Department of Water Resources assured those in attendance that the Tuesday spillway erosion would not cause a threat to the structural integrity of the dam nor be a danger to the public.

Flows that were to reach 65,000 - 70,000 cubic feet per second were suspended when chunks of concrete at the spillway were observed flying through the air around noon.

The spillway is 3,000 feet long.

On Tuesday, the lake level measured 856.40 feet - the capacity is 900 feet.

The cause of the erosion is being investigated.

Tests have been done since the damage sustained Tuesday to see how much the damaged spillway can endure as levels of the reservoir continue to climb. Estimated to be 30 feet in depth on Wednesday, the erosion is now estimated to have grown by 50 feet after water was released Wednesday and Thursday.



EROSION AT SPILLWAY AS WATER RELEASED- As the amount of water released was set to increase dramatically Tuesday, already at 55,000 cubic feet per second, erosion was discovered at the Oroville Dam Spillway in what engineers with the Department of Water Resources say is not a threat to the public. Releases from the Thermalito Afterbay have been increased to hinder a reduction of flow into the Feather River. Lake Oroville rose 10 feet and added 150,000 acre-feet since the release was stopped Tuesday as of Wednesday morning with rains predicted through Friday, and predicted to be back February 16, 2017.

Council has had it with Lamon Construction regarding Daddow Park

Gridley receives favorable audit for fiscal year 2015/16

By Lisa Van De Hey
Publisher/Editor

Following the culmination of a tremendous amount of work by City Finance Director Matt Michaelis and Elisa Arteaga the 2015/2016 Fiscal year annual audit was approved by Gridley City Council after a presentation of Emily Hsia, CPA Manager of Mann, Urrutia, Nelson CPA's & Associates, LLP who thanked the City staff members who she stated were very easy to communicate with and both very responsive.

"The annual audit can be extremely stressful and a lot of extra time spent on the report, Hsia told Council members.

City Administrator Paul Eckert stated the Annual Audit continues to get better every year since Michaelis came on board at the City.

With the category of "Unmodified" as best, Hsia told Council members that the City of Gridley's audit is rated as unmodified with no deficiencies.

Michaelis stated that there should not have been any surprises with Eckert being very transparent noting that the main concerns are the General Fund and Water and Electric funds.

Mid year expenditures for 2016/2017 are on track according to Michaelis.

Eckert stated this was the fourth audit of the City since the theft in the Finance Department five years ago.

He appreciated the fact that the audit firm came in scrutinizing looking for any discrepancies.

In other matters, Councilman Gary Davidson was officially declared the City's NCPA representative in a resolution passed,

required by NCPA (Northern California Power Agency).

A report for the City's Services Update was approved by Council in an effort to keep members of the community informed on all City activities and initiatives.

This report will soon be shared online at <http://www.gridley.ca.us/>.

**DADDOW
PAGE 5**



DADDOW PARK LEFT IN SHAMBLES BY CONTRACTOR - Supplies, tools and trash were left by Lamon Construction who has not returned to the park in many months to complete the contracted work. Gridley City Council members discussed alternatives at Monday night's meeting. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)



DEFICIENCIES GALORE AT DADDOW PARK - A discussion on Daddow Park Monday night led to the Gridley City Council hearing that the City has a list of 150 deficiencies for the project that is going nowhere. Without a list of the deficiencies and with no experience in concrete, building, this reporter found many, many pictures to take of sloppy work done by Lamon Construction who refuses to finish the project for the City of Gridley. (Photos by Lisa Van De Hey)

LOOKINGBACK

BY SETI LONG

The following are stories that appeared in the Gridley Herald 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125 years ago:

25 Years Ago (1992)

"Biggs rejects ballot on anti-smoking law"

By a unanimous vote, Biggs City Council refused to go to the expense of having an election within the city on Butte County's proposed new and more restrictive anti-smoking ordinance. The ordinance would prohibit smoking of tobacco in virtually all enclosed public places, including restaurants, with bars and private residences exempt. The expense of holding a special election of the issues was one of the reasons the Gridley City Council also refused to put the county's anti-smoking measure on the June Primary ballot. However, the Council did adopt regulations banning smoking in all city-owned buildings.

50 Years Ago (1967)

"Pacific Telephone to spend over \$2 Million on Gridley projects."

A "bare bones" 1967 financing program of \$2,100,000.00 will be spent in Butte County this year by Pacific Telephone for new equipment and construction projects. Pacific Telephone manager O.B. Henrickson said "this year's funds will go only to those projects that are vital to meeting the demands of growth in the Gridley area." He continues, "there are now 3,615 telephones in service in Gridley and studies indicate a 5-7 percent growth in the next year." During 1966, telephone customers in Gridley placed about 15,853 calls per day. That figure is expected to increase to 20,800 by 1970. Pacific Telephone will pay \$796,368.46 in property taxes in Butte County this year, and has remained the largest single tax payer in California for the last eight years, with a record total of

payments numbering \$126,000,000.00.

75 Years Ago (1942)

"Thermometers to be tested by U.S. Weather Bureau."

Arrangements have been made again this year for the free testing of orchard thermometers by the U.S. Weather Bureau, Assistant Farm Advisor Stanley Walton announced Saturday. Thermometers to be tested should be left at Wiser's Insurance office today. This service includes testing of thermometers for accuracy, making minor repairs that are necessary and re-blackening the marking on the instruments for easier reading.

100 Years Ago (1917)

"Butte Court Reporter Developing Ranch."

D.C. McCallum, court reporter at Oroville, was in Gridley yesterday looking after some pear trees he has had grown especially for himself by the Gridley Nursery Company. McCallum has a ranch of 400 acres at Berry Creek he had dedicated to planting apples and pears. A pear tree found on the property yielded incredibly good fruit, so McCallum took a lot of scions to Mike Kelleher, the expert in charge at the Gridley Nursery Co. Kelleher was able to root out 250 saplings ready to be planted. McCallum, also a pioneer in the development of the irrigation system in this area, says that he has always had faith in Gridley and Biggs, looks to possibly plant in said areas soon.

125 Years Ago (1892)

The North Butte Lodge of F. & A.M. at Gridley, installed the following officers for the ensuing year. A special meeting was held at which there were fifty-five members present. The lodge is one of the best working lodges in this part of the state. E.E. Biggs, Master; Moses LaPoint, Sr. Warden; J.T. Galbreath, Jr., Warden; T. Holliday, treasurer, etc....

Residents fed up with condition of their street

By Lisa Van De Hey
Publisher/Editor

For several years Jack McDowell has visited the Gridley City Council asking for help on Magnolia Street between Idaho Street and Randolph Avenue.

In the past McDowell and his neighbors have been told that their street is actually an alley therefore could not be paved.

In Monday night's City Council meeting, McDowell's request during the Community Participation to be placed on the February 20, 2017 agenda was met with approval by the Council.

McDowell stated, "Our street is classified as an alley but cars can hardly go through because of the massive holes."

"Nothing has been done before when I have come here. We are going to have to take legal action. I checked with the County

RESIDENTS
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MAGNOLIA STREET A MESS DURING WINTER MONTHS - The potholes have enlarged and multiplied on Magnolia Street between Idaho Street and Randolph Avenue with this winter's storms. Resident Jack McDowell told Gridley City Council members Monday nothing has been done to repair the street, referred to as an alley by the City, for the 30 years he has lived there. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)

Conserving water will cost city residents in Gridley

By Lisa Van De Hey
Publisher/Editor

Adhering to a State mandate, the City of Gridley asked residents to cut back on water usage last year resulting in the City being in compliance for water conservation.

Emergency State-wide conservation regulations were instituted by the California Water Board to promote water conservation.

Gridley City Council members met Monday evening to discuss

the ramifications of the residents doing their part and the cost to the City that will have to go back to the residents who did what they were told.

Finance Director Matt Michaelis explained that the City's water fund is just five percent of the current budget and should constitute 25 percent of it.

The City's Water Fund balance is at \$60,000 when it was previously \$150,000 - \$200,000 according to Michaelis.

Michaelis came to Council asking for the approval of a Water Enterprise Rate Study by Raffel's Financial Consultants.

With the completion of the 2015-2016 fiscal year audit, one of the largest areas of concern as it pertains to the audit and the City's fiscal solvency is the status of the Water Enterprise Fund balance. The Water Fund has not approached a deficit, but it is dangerously close.

Whether the rate will be increased will up to the citizens in the June primaries.

Council members were concerned with spending \$55,000 for a study if the rate increase were not fail but Michaelis assured this is the best money spent in this situation, regardless of the outcome.

"The best type of information is necessary. We need to hire the best experts to tell us what is wrong. This information will remain useful for two to three years after," Michaelis told Council members.

With none of the Council members happy about a possible increase to the citizens, the vote passed with Councilman Ray Borges and Vice Mayor Bruce Johnson voting no for the \$55,000 expenditure.

"This is a hard pill to swallow when you are told to conserve and then penalized because money is down," Vice Mayor Johnson stated earlier in the discussion.

Michaelis pointed out that the City is asking for the study to be back in March which does not provide a lot of time since there are many different rate structures to consider.



Come & Dine at the 59th Annual Manzanita 4-H Tri-Tip & Bean Feed



Gridley Community Center Building
200 E. Spruce Street, 5-8 p.m.
Adults \$12, Children 5-10 \$5, Children 4 & under Free
Saturday, February 11, 2017
Drive Thru Take Out available
(Includes Beverage & Dessert)
Proceeds to benefit Manzanita 4-H Club
Tickets on Sale from any Manzanita 4-H Club Member
or stop by or call the Manzanita Market (530) 846-6030

2017 Valentine's Day Sweetstakes WINNERS

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GRIDLEY HERALD STAFF

Lisa Van De Hey Publisher/Editor
David Vantress Sports/News Reporter
Shelley Roecker..... Sales Executive
Alice Johnson-Cooper Classified Ads Manager
Rachel Marubashi Circulation/Design Production
Seti Long Mail Room

www.GRIDLEYHERALD.com
(530) 846-3661 FAX (530) 846-4519

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NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH - Courtney Parker of Catalyst Domestic Violence Services accepted a Proclamation read by Mayor Frank Hall Monday night proclaiming February as National Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month. The City proclamation started out, "Whereas, one in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, sexual or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth." (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)



FEATHER RIVER A MUDDY MESS - The flow of water Thursday at the Feather River looked considerably different as water was released into the Afterbay following an erosion at the spillway on Tuesday. (Photo by Jon Crawford)

Final community meeting on priorities for Highway 99 in Gridley

On Wednesday, February 15 Caltrans and the City of Gridley will conduct its third and final community meeting seeking community feedback about future improvements to State Highway 99.

Community members are invited to attend a public workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gridley Community Center, 200 Spruce St. in Gridley. The event will include a review of the results of an online survey asking about priorities and preferred improvements for Highway 99. Among the key findings are calls for improved pedestrian and bicycle connections between Gridley neighborhoods and Highway 99 and concerns about the lack of street lighting and narrow sidewalks.

Caltrans is developing a future roadmap for highway improvements that include bringing sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities to meet current ADA standards, improving drainage systems and increasing safety for all modes of transportation. Previous streetscape and design plans developed by the city suggested improvements such as roundabouts, center medians, landscaping, bike lanes, pedestrian amenities and parking modifications.

The public forum seeks feedback about project features ranging from street trees for shade to way-finding signage. The information will help Caltrans and the city develop a list of priorities for future projects.

For more information, contact Caltrans transportation planner Adam Hansen at (530) 741-5452 or email adam.hansen@dot.ca.gov or Gridley City Manager Paul Eckert at (530) 846-3631.

Melodies at 2:00

This month's musical variety program will include the Paradise High School choir and Dan Gates on the Pipe Organ and Piano on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 from 2 – 3 p.m. (Coffee and snacks at 3:00)

This program will be presented to the elementary students at 1:20 P.M. at the Richvale Church, 5219 Church Street, Richvale CA. Refreshments will be served at 3 p.m.

General Information: The Pipe Organ was installed in the Richvale Church over 60 years ago. Those of us who attended there over the years enjoyed great music. In recent years the Pipe Organ was not used often and began to fall into disrepair. About ten years ago, Dan Gates was engaged to refurbish the organ and it has now been brought up to state of the art conditions. We have been enjoying the beautiful sounds of the pipe organ and the artistry of Dan Gates for several years.

There is no admission charge or solicitation of funds for the concert.

For questions or verification call Richvale Church at 530 822 4225

Third Annual GHS Poetry Out Loud

For several weeks, three GHS students have been preparing and rehearsing to recite two poems from memory in this year's local Poetry Out Loud competition. They have been learning the meanings embedded in the poems and how to best communicate them.

Grace Burks, Ashley Patteson, and Maddie Ferguson will compete for the opportunity to participate in the California Poetry Out Loud competition held at the state capitol in March. The winner will be treated to an overnight stay in Sacramento, meals, and photo ops with local legislators.

The state POL competition is webcast and televised via the California Channel. POL is a national poetry recitation competition sponsored by the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. It begins at the local level, and moves on to county, state, and then the national competition in Washington DC.

Kaleidoscope is sponsoring the event, along with the Gridley Branch Library and Gridley High School. Kaleidoscope is donating the cash prizes. Because GHS is the only high school participating in the program in Butte County, the GHS winner will go directly to the state competition.

All are invited to come hear these talented students. The GHS Poetry Out Loud competition will be held at 5:00 pm Wednesday February 15 in the conference room of the Gridley Library. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Gridley Thumbs & Roots

By Barbara Ott

I daydream about time, seasonal, analog and digital. Humans once worked on seasonal time. It was required for survival. Being a gardener seasonal time is still important and many of us are highly aware of the season, the sunlight it holds, the temperatures to expect, the water that might come. Children are creatures of seasonal time.

When I was a kid in the city there was an understanding of the time of the year and its' effect on playing outside. Once in school we had to learn analog time and how each year worked with months, days, hours, minutes a bit about seconds. It made sense with the schedules we had to learn while attending school.

Today's children use digital time down to the parts of a second. Have fun, tell your preteen-teen that it is about 4:00. Better yet say is 15 min. until 4:00. Chances are you will have to interpret that ancient language for them and say 4:45. Analog time is mentioned in schools but not taught in depth. I love the joke that says to use cursive writing as a code to keep information away from the young.

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GRIDLEY-BIGGS POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the daily incident report of the Gridley/Biggs Police Department (GBPD).

The phone number for the Gridley/Biggs Police Dept is 530-846-5678.

Arrests and Citations
Sun. 2-5-17

At 8:48 p.m. Elizabeth Marie Long, 40, of Gridley, was arrested on a local misdemeanor warrant on Obermeyer Ave, according to a GBPD report and was transported to Butte County Jail (BCJ).

At 10:58 p.m. Dionicio Villegas, 26, of Gridley, was cited and released for driving on a suspended drivers license at Ord Ranch Road and Hwy 99, according to a GBPD report.

Tues 2-7-17

At 9:36 p.m. Cody Rold Gmuca, 32, of Biggs, was cited and released for driving on a suspended drivers license at Hwy 99 and Biggs E. Hwy, according to a GBPD report.

At 10:09 p.m. David Miguel Rabeau, 27, of Gridley, was cited and released for driving on a suspended drivers license at Hwy 99 and Ford Ave, according to a GBPD report.

THE ABOVE BOOKINGS AND REPORTS REFLECT ONLY THE INITIAL ACTIONS TAKEN BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTY. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED TO COMMENT ON THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF THOSE LISTED, NOR IS IT AN INDICATION OF THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THESE CASES.



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Pet of the Week

Hank is a two year old black terrier American Pit Bull mix. Hank is a sweet, friendly and playful guy. If you give him a treat or ball he can show you how well he can sit. Hank wouldn't mind being in a home with another well-mannered dog but would do best without any cats. Hank loves to be active but also would love some lap cuddle time. If Hank sounds like your type of guy then come on by our Dog Adoptions office located at 2579 Fair Street in Chico!



Butte Humane Society

Hank

(530)343-7917 or visit www.buttehumane.org

ELECTED OFFICIALS

District 2 California Assemblyman - Jim Wood P.O. Box 942849 Room 6031, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002 (916) 319-2002	Governor of California - Jerry Brown California State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-2841
District 3 California Assemblyman - James Gallagher 2060 Talbert Drive, Suite 110, Chico, CA 95928 (530) 895-4217	District 1 Representative - Doug LaMalfa 506 Cannon House Office Building U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3076
District 4 California Senate - Jim Nielsen State Capitol, Room 3070, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4004	1453 Downer Street, Suite A, Oroville, CA 96965 (530) 534-7100

U.S. Senate - Dianne Feinstein
Hart Senate Bld., Ste. 331, Constitution Ave. & 2nd St., N.E. Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841

U.S. Senate - Kamala Harris
Hart Senate Bld., Ste. 112 Constitution Ave. & 2nd St., N.E. Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3553

U.S. President - Donald Trump
The White House, Washington D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1414

Security camera system approved for Gridley High



NEW SECURITY MEASURES AT WILSON ELEMENTARY - Wrought iron gates have been installed at Wilson Elementary School which will include a buzzer system for visitors during school hours. A staff member is assigned at Wilson's entrance to admit visitors until the additional security is installed. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)

By Lisa Van De Hey
Publisher/Editor

Gridley Unified School Board Trustees approved the purchase of visual security for Gridley High School's campus during and after school hours at their February 1, 2017 board meeting.

The total cost of the KS Telecom security camera system is \$29,900 and the funding will come from the GHS only deferred maintenance fund.

All of the cameras will be placed outside the campus to deter any future vandalism or theft and help with any investigation by school officials and law enforcement for any future problems on

campus.

School Accountability Report Cards (SARC's) for McKinley, Wilson, Sycamore, Gridley High and Esperanza High were approved by trustees which included information on Student Achievement, California Fitness Test, school safety and climate for learning, teaching quality, dropouts and graduates, demographics and enrollment and fiscal and expenditure data.

Every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card containing information about the condition and performance of each California public school. All local educational

agencies are required to prepare a Local Control and Accountability Plan which describes how they intend to meet annual school-specific goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address State and local priorities.

Single Plan for Students Achievements for Wilson, McKinley, Sycamore and Gridley High were also approved in order to meet regulatory compliance requirements at both the State and Federal levels, school wide plans need to be annually approved by the school board.



LIBRARY OFFERS STORY TIME EVERY FRIDAY - Children are invited to join the Butte County Library for Story Time each Friday from 10 a.m., to 11 a.m. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)



WILSON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TONIGHT - Rogelio of The Royal King Dance Academy has spent the week teaching Wilson School students dance steps and a performance will be held for families tonight at 6 p.m., at Sycamore School's Gymnasium. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)

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A report for the City's Services Update was approved by Council in an effort to keep members of the community informed on all City activities and initiatives.

This report will soon be shared online at <http://www.gridley.ca.us/>.

With no financial impacts associated with this item on Monday nights agenda, the Council approval is consistent with the ongoing efforts to transparently share all City financial and budgetary information with the public.

A resolution authorizing two redevelopment loans to be considered for "legitimate redevelopment purposes," was approved for enforceable obligations provided dating back to 2002 and 2003.

"On December 9, 2003, the City of Gridley's General Fund lent the former Redevelopment Agency \$176,885.38 and on January 31, 2012, a required audit of pending obligations of the Successor Agency (called the "Due Diligence Review") revealed that the City of Gridley's General Fund lent the former Redevelopment Agency \$569,131 (comprising of \$525,000 on the City's financial records) and that corresponding "due to" was transferred to the Successor Agency as a negative balance.

"Lastly, on January 22, 2002, the Gridley Redevelopment Agency borrowed \$678,000 from the City of Gridley's Low and Moderate Incoming Housing Fund for payment to the Supplemental Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund. All of these contributing to the substantial negative fund balances for funds 204 and 205.



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Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded. Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, Turn Around, Don't Drown. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

Follow these safety rules:

- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around, Don't Drown
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around, Don't Drown. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Thank You and be safe!!
Gridley Fire Station 74

Scam Warning: The IRS will not email, text or use social media to contact you

Many people are the victims each and every day, many times it is senior citizens who are too trusting who are happy to send money to someone who requests payment or help.

Scammers have become adept at impersonating IRS agents and emailing innocent victims who unfortunately fall prey to requests.

Seniors on a fixed income can suddenly find themselves without money if they have fallen for the line of scammers and sent money repeatedly.

Criminals are actually able to get an app which will show a legitimate number for a law enforcement agency or the IRS and any other Federal agency.

Many times, those who have been scammed are too embarrassed to report the fraud which means the scammers keep scamming other victims.

Be aware of people claiming you can win a free gift or vacation especially when they want you to pay for handling or other charges.

Never, ever give your bank account number or credit card number when you receive a call or email from an IRS imposter (or anyone else who initiated a call to you).

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

An approximate 400 percent surge in phishing and malware incidents have been seen so far for the 2016 tax season.

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Kids celebrate Valentines at Patrick Ranch Saturday

The Patrick Ranch Museum celebrate will Valentines Day with lots of exciting activities at the ranch. The Kids Valentines Special will be on Saturday, Feb 11th 11am-1pm and cost is \$2.00 per person. Participants will create a variety of valentines for the whole family. Learn to decorate valentine cookies. Explore the bee exhibit in the Visitors Center before it closes. Take s tour of the Glenwood Farm House beautifully decorated for Valentines Day.

The Patrick Ranch Museum Gift Store is open Saturdays and Sundays 11 am - 3 pm., and has a huge selection of Valentine Gifts for the whole family. The store includes a large selection Skylake Ranch Pomegranates products; Bella Sun's sun dried tomatoes, pesto and sauces; Sohnrey's nuts and nut products; Lundberg rice and rice products; local artists creations with fine jewelry; birdhouses and sculptures; Lotions and soaps to enhance the beauty of a loved one; many books and other crafts

The Electoral College: How Is It Working? Do We Need It?

The League of Women Voters of Butte County will host a program about the Electoral College on February 22, 2017, 6 pm, First Baptist Church Fellowship Room, 850 Palmetto, Chico, California.

The League of Women Voters is committed to voter education and increased understanding of our Democracy.

Many citizens would like to learn more about the history of the Electoral College. Is it working effectively for American Voters? What effect has it had on U. S. elections historically? How is it effecting our elections now? What was the intent of the Founding Fathers when they established the Electoral College as the method to elect the President of the United States?

We will host a panel of experts:

Diana Dwyre, PhD., Political Science Professor, CSU Chico,

Cynthia Bynoe, Political Science instructor, Butte College

Robert Main, PhD, CSU Chico Professor Emeritus

Mahalley Allen, PhD., is the moderator for our program. Ms. Allen is a League of Women Voters member and the Department Chair of Political Science at CSU Chico. There will be time for the League and the public to ask questions of our panelists.

The League will serve pizza, salad & cookies for a donation. The public is welcome. For reservations contact the League at: lwvbutte@gmail.com

items for children. Come to the store located at the Visitors Center to get those unique gifts for Valentines Day.

The ranch is located at 10381 Midway between Chico and Durham. Proceeds benefit the everyday upkeep of the ranch. For more information call 342-4359 or visit our website at www.patrickranchmuseum.org

DADDOW FROM PAGE 1

With no financial impacts associated with this item on Monday nights agenda, the Council approval is consistent with the ongoing efforts to transparently share all City financial and budgetary information with the public.

A resolution authorizing two redevelopment loans to be considered for "legitimate redevelopment purposes," was approved for enforceable obligations provided dating back to 2002 and 2003.

"On December 9, 2003, the City of Gridley's General Fund lent the former Redevelopment Agency \$176,885.38 and on January 31, 2012, a required audit of pending obligations of the Successor Agency (called the "Due Diligence Review") revealed that the City of Gridley's General Fund lent the former Redevelopment Agency \$569,131 (comprising of \$525,000 on the City's financial records) and that corresponding "due to" was transferred to the Successor Agency as a negative balance.

"Lastly, on January 22, 2002, the Gridley Redevelopment Agency borrowed \$678,000 from the City of Gridley's Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund for payment to the supplemental Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund. All of these contributing to the substantial negative fund balances for funds 204 and 205."

Once the Oversight board, the City Council and Department of Finance approves these loans as being completed for "legitimate redevelopment purposes," the City may then adopt a repayment schedule which will have a favorable impact on the City's General and CDBF Funds, however, the impact will not be immediate as a relatively conservative repayment schedule will need to be adopted."

Councilman Gary Davidson spoke on the condition of Daddow Park during Council members committee reports stating, "What a sloppy job that is."

Councilman Davidson remarked that Red Suspenders is only a couple of months away and stated, "We don't have a drop dead date. How can we implement one?"

Kindergarten registration at Manzanita Elementary

The Manzanita Elementary School District is now registering children who will be turning five-years-old on or before September 1, 2017 for its 2017-2018 Kindergarten class.

Manzanita is also accepting names of students who will be turning five between September 2, 2017 and December 2, 2017 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.

"We need the park done so people can enjoy it," he told fellow council members who agreed.

City Attorney Tony Galyean was not aware that the park remained closed waiting for work to be completed by Lamon Construction.

"City Planner Donna Decker brought it to the Council several months ago. I was not aware the park is still not open."

Councilman Davidson expressed he would like Eckert to get a committee gathered "or we want our money back."

Mayor Hall concurred by stating the City could have their employees finish the work.

City workers are waiting for Lamon Construction to complete their contracted work before they go in to add finishing touches such as irrigation, grass, benches and trash containers.

Eckert stated a deficiency list has been compiled by the City with 150 items on it.

"We will update on their lack of response," Eckert told Council members.

Vice Mayor Johnson asked Eckert to take charge of the unfinished project.

Mayor Hall stated, "It's the saddest thing I've ever seen over there. The new caps aren't installed. Laymon is not doing anything."

"This has gone beyond people being irritated," Vice Mayor Johnson told fellow Council members. "I'll get out there with a shovel if I have to."

RESIDENTS FROM PAGE 3

and the street was paved 40 years go.


"The neighbors on Magnolia have had it. The potholes have torn up our cars. I have lived on this street 30 years and nothing has been done.

"If you go on Google streets you can see the cracks in the street. Any one of you would hate living on this street."

City Administrator Paul Eckert told Council members he would have estimates of cost at the February 20, 2017 meeting.



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Valentines to Brides

How chocolate became tied to Valentine’s Day

Heart-shaped boxes filled with decadent treats are coveted gifts on Valentine’s Day. Chocolate lovers typically have a favorite type of chocolate, whether it’s creamy filled truffles or chocolate pieces with fruit or nut fillings.

The tradition of gifting chocolate is anything but new. Chocolate and other sweet treats have been offered for centuries as prized gifts. Even ancient Aztecs and Mayans celebrated chocolate and saw it as a hot commodity. Drinks made of cacao beans would be given as presents to people of high status. Chocolate also would be offered to the gods as a token of appreciation. Cacao beans were even used as a form of currency at one point.

During the 17th century, chocolate consumption grew considerably across Europe. Chocolate houses cropped up in London, and the French elite often indulged in chocolate. Chocolate’s popularity continued to grow, but the dessert was not linked to Valentine’s Day until nearly 200 years later. In the mid-1800s, an enterprising individual named Richard Cadbury was looking for a way to make chocolate even more popular than it already was. He sought out a method to make drinking chocolate more palatable and created “eating chocolates.” These chocolates were packaged in decorative boxes. Eventually, Cadbury saw the benefit of putting images of cupids and roses on the boxes. Cadbury even designed chocolate boxes in the shape of hearts that could be saved as mementos. These chocolates soon became intertwined with Valentine’s Day celebrations.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Milton Hershey dabbled in commercializing chocolate as well. Hershey began as a caramel maker, but experimented with covering the caramels in chocolate in 1894. Hershey would go on to develop one of the most successful brands of chocolate in the United States, which included the famous Hershey bar. In 1907, Hershey launched production of tear-drop shaped “kisses.” (The chocolates were given their unusual name because of the “smooching” noise made by the chocolate when being manufactured.) The kisses became wildly popular and made for affordable chocolate gifts on Valentine’s Day.

Many other chocolate manufacturers soon began packaging their chocolates in special boxes for Valentine’s Day. Russell Stover and Whitmans are two such manufacturers who have long specialized in heart-shaped boxes or other decorative Valentine’s gifts.

Traditionally, men have gifted women with boxes of chocolate for Valentine’s Day. However, that role is reversed in other areas of the world. For example, in Japan, women give gifts — namely chocolates — to the men in their lives to express love, courtesy or social obligation. This tradition first began in 1936 when confectioner Morozoff Ltd. ran the first ever Valentine’s Day ad in Japan through a local English newspaper. By the 1950s, other Japanese confectioners were following suit.

Chocolate has long been tied to Valentine’s Day gifting. Whether one believes that chocolate symbolizes heightened status, acts as an aphrodisiac or is just a special treat, chocolates will likely always be associated with the day of love.



Chocolate has been considered a special gift for centuries. It became linked to Valentine’s Day in the 1800s.



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SPORTS

Barbarian Rugger Hit the Pitch

The Gridley Barbarian Rugby Club took to their home pitch for the first time this season to play host to ruggers form Granite Bay, Sierra Foothills, Land Park and Del Campo. In their fourth season of existence the Barbarian club has grown for the original two teams (under ten and under 12 teams) to a club fielding six different teams. The Barbarians now have teams for the U10's, U12's, Middle School boys, Middle School girls, High School boys, and High School girls.

The under 10 Barbarians took on clubs form Granite Bay and Sierra Foothills, and they experienced their most success of the season. The Barbarians played Sierra Foothills to a 3-3 draw, and then got their first win of the year by a score of 3-2 over the ruggers form Granite Bay. Both games were marked by strong defensive play lead by Hudson Brewer, Merideth Tarzian, Mason Kaelin, Garrett Francis, and Jase Lewellen. Barbarians scoring tries were Sam Bababilla 1, Eban Jones 2, and Nathan Zumwalt 3.

The under 12 Barbarians also took on Sierra Foothills and Granite Bay. On this day the 12's were on the short end of success in their matches. The Barbarians had a tuff time containing the offensive power of both Granite Bay and Sierra Foothills and fell in both

matches. However, Coach Brant Smith saw some positive growth in his young club with plenty to work on in practice. Soring for the Barbarians was limited to one try scored by Even Reauseau.

The Middle School Barbarian ladies took to the pitch to take on the ladies of Land Park. In this match the Land Park ladies were short of players making the trip to Gridley, so sticking to a long rugby tradition, the a couple of barbarian ladies volunteered to play for Land Park so the match could proceed. The barbarians experienced a good amount of success during the match putting up a total of four tries. Marissa Patane and Indica Curry led the way with two tries each.

In the Middle School Barbarian boys action the Barbarians took on Granite Bay and Sierra Foothills. In these matches the Barbarians were the superior team, dominating both teams in all aspects of the game. Brigham Lessard led all scorers with 4 tries on the day. Also scoring for the Barbarians was Jesse Juarez 1, Chris Richins 1, Elias Counihan 1, and Nick Fisher 1.

The Barbarian High School ladies were in action against the Del Campo Cougars and the Land Park Harlequins. The Barbarians came out on top of the Cougars with a score of four tries to none, and then



Gridley Barbarian Boy's Middle School Team

fell to the Land Park club 4-3 in a very close physical match. Ariel Montero led the Barbarian ladies in scoring.

The HS Barbarian boys hosted the Center Parkway Harlequins from Sacramento. The Harlequins were a physically imposing club and they played with great skill. The Barbarians put forth a courageous effort, but fell short at the end to the Harlequins in the end.

The Barbarians will be back in action on Saturday February 11 at the Butte County Fairgrounds in Gridley. Please come and experience the great game of rugby, and support these great athletes.



LIVE OAK 7TH GRADE AT RAY ROBERTS TOURNAMENT - Live Oak 7th graders made it to the finals with Egling edging past them Saturday at the Ray Roberts Basketball Tournament at Sycamore School. The game ended at 45-40 Egling. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)



SYCAMORE 8TH GRADE CHAMPS - Coach Mike Erickson is pictured with the 8th grade basketball team at Sycamore Middle School after receiving top honors at the Ray Roberts Basketball Tournament. Roberts' great-grandson Ryan Smith played in the tournament. Roberts died in 2007, retiring from the Gridley Unified School District after working in education 67 years as a coach, teacher, principal and attendance officer. Many remember Roberts not only as a referee at many sporting events (especially running up and down the basketball courts) but for his no-nonsense attitude in keeping children in line and greeting children on the playground with a big smile, joining in their games during recess. (Photo by Lisa Van De Hey)



Happy Valentines Day

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