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THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 4, 2017 • VOL. 137 NO. 1

LOCAL BRIEFS

Playtime at Library for children

On Wednesday, January 11, 2017 children are invited to come join the Lego Play-time at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, January 18, kids are invited for crafts and the following Wednesday, January 25 for a kids movie.

Story time at Library

Children ages 0-5 years of age are invited to come enjoy Story Time at the Gridley Library Fridays at 10 a.m.

Taize (Healing) Service at Gridley United Methodist Church

The Gridley United Methodist Church will hold a healing service in the spirit of Taize on January 21 at 6 p.m. The church is located at 285 Magnolia Street. The service will be held in the Dove's Chapel, a newly remodeled room to provide an intimate setting.

The Taize service can help bring peace to a pressure filled life.

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Hit and Run fatality on Highway 99

On December 29, 2016, at approximately 5:37 p.m., the Gridley-Biggs Police Department (GBPD) and the California Highway Patrol, responded to a Traffic Collision (vehicle verses pedestrian) on State Route 99 and Obermeyer Avenue. GBPD Officers arrived on scene and conducted an investigation. The preliminary investigation revealed an unknown vehicle struck the victim, Greg Howard, 40, of Gridley, in the roadway and fled the accident scene. Howard received major life threatening injuries and was pronounced deceased on scene by medical person-

nel.

GBPD Officers, with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol recovered evidence on scene as to the identity of the vehicle involved. The investigation is on-going and anyone who may have witnessed this accident or have any further information, is encouraged to contact the Gridley-Biggs Police Department, Detective Joel Bassett or Officer Eva Smith at (530) 846-5670.

Johnson arrested in SWAT team standoff in Oroville

On Thursday December 29th, at approximately 5 p.m., Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) SWAT Team was requested to assist Oroville Police Department (OPD) after negotiations between OPD and suspect, Ronnie Johnson, were unsuccessful.

Johnson, 51 of Oroville, was wanted for domestic violence, kidnapping and false imprisonment charges. BCSO SWAT team responded to the 100 block of Fairhill Drive in Oroville, where Johnson was reported to be residing inside a motorhome and was refusing to come out.

BCSO SWAT Team introduced gas into the motorhome in an effort to get Johnson to exit. During that time, Johnson put the motorhome into reverse and backed into an OPD vehicle, thankfully no injuries were reported.

BCSO SWAT Team members were able to gain entry into the motorhome and detained Johnson, along with three other individuals.

This was a joint effort between BCSO and OPD in the successful arrest of the suspect.

Johnson was involved in a previous standoff in Gridley at the Heritage Shopping Center with Gridley-Biggs Police assisting the Butte County Sheriff's Department on an Oroville Police Department request on December 17, 2016 but was not detained at that time.



**LEGIONNAIRE
OF THE YEAR**
- The Legionnaire of the Year Award was given to Frank Bartolomucci, our Post Senior Vice Commander, in recognition of his unwavering support. Frank has participated in every event from parades to Thursday night bingo. Frank is an indispensable member of our Post. His award includes a certificate and an American Legion Grateful Appreciation medal that is wearable on the Legion uniform as well as civilian jacket lapels.



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OBITUARY

Mary Ellen Munar



Born October 1, 1930 in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, Mary passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of December 26, 2016 in Gridley, with family present. Mary was 86 years old.

In 1947 Mary met Moses Munar while she was a cook on a ranch where he was the ranch foreman. They were together for the next 56 years. Most of those years were spent in Gridley where together they raised seven beautiful children. During these years Mary worked at numerous jobs to help make ends meet for the family. The jobs included farm labor, owning a second-hand store where they restored and sold antiques. During the 60's Mary and Moses owned an upholstery shop until they retired in the 90's. Also during the 70's Mary drove a school bus for the church school for a while and she absolutely loved the job. In the 70's she also enjoyed playing softball for a local team.

Mary and Moses gave a lot of their time and resources helping those in need. They opened their home taking in others in need on many occasions. Later in life

Mary became a caregiver which was very much in line with her personality. Mary set a great example of love and hard work for her children and a lasting legacy of love, charity, and friendship in action, for all of those who knew her. Mary was full of humility, and if she were to read this paragraph she would probably respond, "Who me?"

Mary Munar is survived by five daughters and two sons: Gaile and husband Kerry (their son Corbin who passed away, but will always be with us); Patricia and son Christopher; Cathy and husband John, and their daughters Theresa, Suzanna, and Alicia, and their families; Jennifer and husband Del and her children Angel, Jody, Katie, Wendy, and Leif; Janice and husband Eldon, and their children Amy and Travis and their families; Moses and wife Kim, and their children Zachary and Kinzie, and their families; David and his children Sarah, Dane, and Nalani. Mary was also blessed to have four sisters who lived in Gridley. Surviving are her sisters Hazel Wilhite, Betty Smith, and Alice Isaacson.

Mary had seven brothers and sisters who preceded her in death.

A Celebration of Life Service will be on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., in Gridley at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, at 360 Indiana Street. There will be no viewing. A private interment (family only) will be at Gridley-Biggs Cemetery.

Butte County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit rescues two in Butte Meadows

On December 30th, at approximately 9:45 a.m., Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) received a call from a woman reporting her son and his fiancée had been trapped in the snow in Butte Meadows since approximately 5:00 p.m. on December 29th. The reporting party advised that she had been in contact with her son, via text message, and was able to provide detailed information regarding their location.

BCSO Search and Rescue unit responded to the Butte Meadows area with their Argo Snow Vehicle, and located the trapped individuals at 12:40 p.m. BCSO personnel transported the individuals to the Jonesville Snowmobile Park, where they were reunited with family members at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Thankfully, the individuals in this incident were well prepared for the snow, and were able to survive without any injuries. The individuals had also advised family members where they were going and when they planned to return. Fortunately, there was cell reception within walking distance from where the individuals became stuck, and contact was made with family members. We are thankful for the positive outcome of this incident.

Please remember to be prepared anytime you plan to visit the snow. Bring extra clothing, blankets, food and water. Always let someone know where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

Beta Omega Master presents Exemplar Ritual degree

Members of Beta Omega Master chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority ended 2016 with a business and social meeting at the festively decorated home of Dell DeMeyer on December 12th. Present were Ada Christensen-President, Kathy Adams, Bonnie Bayles-Steir, Mary Ann Boeger, Virginia Falk, Pam Coffin, Ernie Chambers, Nancy Schouten, Arlene Grein, Louise Block and Sheila Huffman. Luncheon of homemade chicken and noodles, cranberry/pineapple frozen salad, rolls and red velvet cake was served.

During the business portion of the meeting, newly reinstated member, Sheila Huffman, was given the Exemplar Ritual degree, which constitutes four years of active membership, conducted by Vice President Bonnie Bayles-Steir, presented with a yellow rose and congratulations by the members. Highlight of the meeting was sharing of gifts the members purchased to donate to the local Children's Hope program and to be delivered by chairman Kathy Adams following the meeting. Business included a report by the president on the recent Far Northern California Council brunch held at Rolling Hills Casino in Corning. Over 200 were in attendance, including six visiting state area council presidents and board members, for the event and annual Christmas Bazaar. Also attending were Pam Coffin and FNCC Forum Director, Dell DeMeyer. The next council brunch/meeting will be February 4th at the Win River Casino in Redding and will feature a Forum on Colorful Stress Relief by Mrs. DeMeyer and the council's Philanthropic March to add funds to their official state charities: Cystic Fibrosis, Scleroderma, Lupus and the Stanford Kidney Research Fund.

Two cultural programs were presented using the president's musical theme of "Music Is the Heart and Soul of Everybody". Mrs. Christensen's topic was a biography on musician/composer John Williams and a selection of his music backgrounds for such films as Star Wars and the 1984 Olympic Opening Ceremonies. Christmas music from other countries was the topic for Mrs. DeMeyer's program and concluded with a game for members to select the correct title of Christmas songs by multiple choice. The next business meeting will be January 8th at Gold Country Casino in Oroville.

Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's friendship network, was established in 1932 and has International headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, with currently one hundred fifty thousand members. In August a convention was held in Kansas City and 1500 members attended the three day event, put on by the International staff. Beta Omega Master meets once each month, September through June, and holds most meetings in the members' homes.

Membership in Beta Sigma Phi is by invitation to women who are interested in making new friendship, being a part of a socially acceptable group of women, who will be provided with educational programs and the opportunity to provide service to others.

These are women of all ages, interests, educational and economic backgrounds, the motto is "Life, Learning and Friendship" and anyone wanting to know more is encouraged to contact a member or go to <http://www.betasigmaphi.org>

Gridley Thumbs and Roots

By Barbara Ott

Has the temperature dropped to the 20's? I know I am preparing for this possibility. FYI plants will survive some freezing if protected but they stop thriving at around 55 degrees. What ever you can do for your plants is worth it in the spring.

I use row cover cloth as I've stated before, I also use burlap. Row cover cloth is designed to keep form a thin barrier between the air and the leaves. It seems weird that a thin layer of cloth can prevent damage from freezing but it can.

I have also used old sheets in the past. These barriers also bring up the temperature of the earth just enough to make a difference. If you have old non-LED strings of lights they also help. I used to use an incandescent 100W bulb in a hanging light in my orange tree. Now I am thinking of some type of "heat" light since bulbs are now LED which means no heat to share with plants. I've ordered medium weight row cover cloth to cover a few things that don't need covering until the temps hit the 20s. Here's wishing well for your plants in the New Year.

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

Thurs. 12-29-16

At 5:11 p.m. Bobby Joe Rogers, 36, of Biggs was arrested, cited and released for possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of parole at B and Third streets, according to a GBPD report.

Fri. 12-30-16

At 10:57 a.m. Armando Sanchez Navarro, 51, of Gridley, was arrested for driving under the influence at Ohio and Peach streets, according to a GBPD report and was

transported to Butte County Jail (BCJ).

At 12:00 a.m.

Michael Eugene Wright, 51, of Gridley, was arrested, cited and released for possession of methamphetamine and violation of probation at E. Gridley Road and Hwy 99, according to a GBPD report.

Sat. 12-31-16

At 10:07 p.m.

Omar Czars, 22, of Biggs, was arrested for driving without a valid drivers license at Second and Aleut streets in Biggs, according to a GBPD report and was transported to BCJ.

At 2:04 a.m.

Amanda Ann Marie Marshall, 26, of Gridley, was cited and released for driving on a suspended drivers license in the 1600 block of Hwy 99, 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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Since 1989, May has been designated as National Stroke Awareness Month. Stroke happens when blood flow to part of the brain is interrupted.

Fortunately, perhaps due to increased awareness, stroke death rates dropped 35 percent between 1998 and 2008. However, every year, stroke still kills more than 133,000 people in the U.S., and is a leading cause of serious, long-term adult disability.

Stroke occurs slightly more frequently in women than men, and African-Americans have an increased risk for the disease.

Some things you can do to lessen your risk of stroke are: control blood pressure and cholesterol levels, don't smoke, limit alcohol consumption, eat a healthy diet, and exercise regularly.

There are warning signs of a stroke, and acting quickly when stroke is suspected is critical. The National Stroke Association suggests the FAST test when stroke is suspected:

Face. Ask the person to smile. Note if one side of the face droops.

Arms. Ask the person to raise both arms. See if one drifts downward.

Speech. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Listen for slurred speech.

Time. If you observe any of these signs, call 911 immediately.

Learn more about the disease and its prevention and treatment at www.Stroke.org.

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Room 6031, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002
(916) 319-2002

District 3 California - Assemblyman James Gallagher

2060 Talbert Drive, Suite 110, Chico, CA 95928
(530) 895-4217

District 4 California Senate - Jim Nielsen

State Capitol, Room 3070, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-4004

Governor of California - Jerry Brown

California State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841

District 1 Representative - Doug LaMalfa

506 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3076
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 - Barbara Boxer

Hart Senate Bld., Ste. 112 Constitution Ave. & 2nd St., N.E. Washington D.C. 20510
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CARS WE REMEMBER

Test Drive: 2017 Nissan Titan XD Crew Cab

By **Greg Zyla**

More Content Now

This week, we're driving the second generation 2017 Nissan Titan, the company's flagship full size pickup that comes in rear drive or 4x4 in both single cab or crew cab designs.

Before we get into the incidentals and mechanical build of the Titan, let's take a close look at its heritage, and why Nissan zeroed in on building a pickup to compete with Chevy, Ford and RAM (Dodge) here in America.

Specifically, Titan was designed in California, engineered in Michigan and is assembled in Mississippi.

Also new is a Cummins V8 Diesel option that compliments a new, powerful V8. The engines are built in Indiana and Tennessee.

Thus, if you own a Nissan Titan and someone tells you it's a foreign truck, they are incorrect. The

only thing "foreign" is its name as Titan has been an All-American success story since its 2004 debut.

Our tester arrived in Pro-4X off-road trim with the XD crew cab build. These XD Titans are built on a heavier duty chassis coupled to new engines. The power specifics include a standard across the line Endurance 5.6 liter V8 or a new, optional, 5.0-liter V8 turbo Cummins diesel.

The standard gasoline fed V8 puts out 390 horsepower and 394 lb. ft. of torque, usually more than enough for owners who need to tow. Our V8 powered Pro-4X features a 4WD two-speed transfer case and roomy crew cab interior.

Five full size adults took our Titan on a 200-mile drive encountering all types of weather, from a 65 degree northeast day that turned into the area's first 5-inch

snowfall in a matter of 4 hours. Titan performed flawlessly through it all.

The gas V8 mates to a seven-speed automatic, which is the sole transmission available. For you diesel fans, a new 5.0 Cummins V8 generates a whopping 555-lb. ft. of torque from 310 horses thanks to a two stage turbocharger hooked to a six-speed heavy duty transmission.

As for weight class designation, Titan XD is more like a heavier duty "half-ton" built to compete with the Ford F150, Dodge Ram 1500 and Chevy Silverado half-ton offerings. It's more or less a 2,000-pound payload build, right in the middle of a Chevy Silverado 1500 and RAM 2500.

Titan offers some really nice standard features as our Titan Pro-4X came with special Bilstein shocks for optimum off-road work; hill descent control; steel front skid plates; 18x7.5 two-tone aluminum wheels on all-terrain off-road tires; factory applied spray in bedliner; and an industry first integrated gooseneck hitch for serious towing.

Also notable is Titan's class IV tow hitch receiver, tow hooks, fog lamps and much more. Your Nissan Titan dealer will show you all of these features when you visit.



2017 Nissan Titan XD Crew Cab. NISSAN

Our tester came with three options, including a Pro-4X Luxury package for \$750 that added ventilated front seats, enhanced mirror and monitor; a Pro-4X Convenience group for \$3,520 that upgrades the interior with leather, remote start, heated steering wheel and much more; and an \$1,820 Utility and Tow Package that I recommend if towing is in your future.

This adds front and rear sensors, tie down cleats, illumination in the bed, industry first 120V electrical outlet in the bed, a great sounding Rockford Fosgate 12-speaker stereo system, extendable power and heated rear view mirror and the trailer brake controller unit. This pushed the final tally to \$52,305 retail. The single cab (same wheelbase length) starts at \$29,580 while the crew cab XD starts at \$34,780 in rear drive form.

Titan XD is smooth as can be on the four-lane

freeways and not that bad on the rutted and bumpy side roads. Fuel mileage is decent considering Titan's near 3-ton mass, while stopping is very good thanks to some of the biggest brakes in the light-duty/semi-heavy duty truck industry. We averaged 15.6 MPG on our back road and freeway adventures, which I felt was pretty good.

Titan's EPA 4x4 numbers are 15 city and 20 highway while the rear drive XD delivers one better at 15 and 21, respectively.

As for safety, all the airbags, electrical marvels like blind spot and rear cross traffic, ABS brakes, rear safety camera and everything usually found in a car is now built into these amazing modern trucks.

Important numbers include a wheelbase of 139.8

inches, 5,811-lb. curb weight, 10.6-inch ground clearance (with 4x4 skid plates, 9.8 otherwise), 12,000-lb. tow capacity, and a 26-gallon fuel tank.

It's clear that Nissan Titan XD is looking for a new niche market situated somewhere between the 1500 and 2500 series pickups.

And, they just might be on to something as this new generation XD Titan really is in a class by itself. Throw in a 5 year/100,000 mile bumper to bumper warranty and you have a winner.

Greg Zyla writes weekly for More Content Now and other Gatehouse Media properties. He welcomes reader questions and input on auto nostalgia, collector cars and old time racing at 303 Roosevelt St., Sayre, Pa. 18840 or email at greg@gregzyla.com

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At a glance
* Entry Price: \$34,780
* Price as Tested: \$52,305
* Likes: New engines, great looks, an All-American truck.
* Dislikes: High step in on Pro 4X, not much else at all.

THE GRIDLEY HERALD

Community Calendar

If you would like to be included in the Community Calender, email herald.rachel@gmail.com a week before your event/service

SELF-HELP

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings in Gridley

Open to anyone wishing to attend, meetings will be held at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson Street every:

Sunday, 7 p.m., Wednesday, 7 p.m., Thursday, 7 p.m., Friday, 7 p.m.

Call 1-877-669-1669 for more information.

Monday Night - Ladies Night 7 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Book club offered at Gridley Library

If you are interested in joining a once a month self directed book club stop by or call the library in Gridley to sign up. Members will decide the day and time to meet, make the book selections and lead the discussions. Call 846-3323 to sign up.

BINGO!!!

VFW, Auxiliary and American Legion Bingo every Thursday at Veterans Memorial Hall, 249 Sycamore Street, at 6:30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Paperback books for sale at Gridley's Library

Gridley Friends of the Library offers an ongoing paperback book sale in the lobby of the library at just 25 cents each.

Pre-owned books are welcome along with hard back books as long as they are in good condition.

U-Jam Fitness

Turn it Up for the ultimate fitness dance party Tuesdays at 6 p.m., at the Gridley Recreation Center in Vierra Park. First class is free, \$3 per class after.

GRIDLEYHERALD.COM

Publisher, Lisa Van De Hey's 25 Year Anniversary

**THE GRIDLEY
HERALD**



To celebrate the 25 Year Anniversary of Publisher Lisa Van De Hey at The Gridley Herald..... We are offering six month subscriptions for just \$25 (regular rate \$42) on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 only. Subscriptions must be paid at time of order and can be placed in person at 650 Kentucky Street or over the phone 530-846-3661.

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The Gridley Herald is no responsible for moe than one incorrect insertion. Be sure to check your ad the first time it appears in the paper.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2016-0001533

The following persons are doing business as: **ANDERSON AND HALBERT HOMES**
1823 WISTERIA LANE CHICO, CA 95926
BEAU I ANDERSON, 1823 Wisteria Lane Chico, CA 95926
HOLLI T ANDERSON, 1823 Wisteria Lane Chico, CA 95926
Date Filed in Butte County: December 14, 2016
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 14, 2016
This Business is Conducted by: A Married Couple
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date if 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: December 21, 28 2016 January 4, 11, 2017 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2016-0001488

The following person is doing business as: **INVESTORS FIRST MORTGAGE**
1627 ESPLANADE CHICO, CA 95926
RONALD WILLIAM LANLDINI, 375 W. Lassen Ave #6 Chico, CA 95973
Date Filed in Butte County: December 6, 2016
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 6, 2016
This Business is Conducted by: Individual
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date if 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: December 28, 2016 January 4, 11, 18, 2017 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2016-0001557

The following person is doing business as: **KIM WOLFES FASHION BOUTIQUE**
1767 SPRUCE STREET GRIDLEY, CA 95948
KIMBERLY ANN WOLFE, 1767 Spruce St., Gridley, CA 95948
Date Filed in Butte County: December 20, 2016
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 20, 2016
This Business is Conducted by: Individual
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date if 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: December 28, 2016 January 4, 11, 18, 2017 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2016-0001534

The following person is doing business as: **LANGLERS WEBWORKS**
1230 1ST AVENUE OROVILLE, CA 95965
DANIEL CHRISTOPHER BOND, 1230 1st, Ave., Oroville, CA 95965
Date Filed in Butte County: December 14, 2016
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 14, 2016
This Business is Conducted by: Individual
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date if 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: December 2016 January 4, 11, 18, 2017 (The Gridley Herald)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2016-0001593

The following persons are doing business as: **BEST SELF STORAGE AND RV**
3005 FEATHER RIVER BLVD., OROVILLE, CA 95965
KATHLEEN ANN LICCARDIO, 20588 Lynde Ct., Saratoga, CA 95070
Date Filed in Butte County: December 29, 2016
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 1995
This Business is Conducted by: Limited Partnership
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date if 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 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017 (The Gridley Herald)

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INTERN SECRETARY - BRITTNEY KELLY
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From Gridley to Fiji

Mission work a way of life for former Gridley couple

By Lisa Van De Hey
Publisher/Editor

Mike and Jan McMillen left Fiji at 32 degrees celsius to visit their former home of Gridley at 32 degrees and enjoy their time here during the holidays.

The couple needed a mission field when they left Gridley 30 years ago and thought ‘Why not Fiji?’

Before they took on the missionary life, the McMillen’s were married in 1970. She was raised a “military brat,” in her words in Southern California and he was raised in the Bay Area.

They met when Mike was in the Marine Corps in Southern California and they proclaim to have been good dancers.

“We don’t dance in front of people now!” Jan stated.

The couple moved to Gridley in 1972 when Jan asked to be transferred here by the telephone company where she worked the next 20 years while Mike ran McMillen’s Ag & Air at the corner of Evans Reimer Road and French Avenue.

It was so much work changing everything from freon to R134A he felt he needed a different kind of life.

Jan retired and the end of 1986 so that they could complete their calling and Mike says he is still worn out at the end of the day but sweats less in Fiji.

It seems that they couple has visited once a year for the past few years as they have had to attend family funerals but they said customs is always good to work with though more hassle than when they began this journey.

While visiting Gridley, the couple stays with Gary and Barbara Davidson with whom they have been good friends the past 35 years.

While in the United States, the McMillen’s attend Calvary Chapel in Oroville.

While in Fiji the couple has been known to take children in who need a better home.

Their latest guest was “Shareeza” who is in University now.

The couple hosts a

Bible study every week in their neighborhood with at least 20 regularly attending.

Before they went to Fiji to live, the McMillen’s spent time in Somoa and Tonga.

While here, Mike received on the job pastoral training which has come in very hand in the missionary work the couple does.

Though they spent 10 years in the midst of the 30 total, Fiji seems to now be the home of this energetic couple who enjoys helping others.

They help tremendously during disaster relief where they have helped at medical outreaches and even help to build homes.

Mike fills in for other pastors, not only in their denomination which can last up to six months at a time before he heads back to interning a local Fiji pastor.

They enjoy studying scriptures with the Fiji people and explaining what they actually mean.

“We have a good camaraderie, especially with the missionaries maybe because there are so few of us,” Jan explained.

They enjoy the different foods they have eaten over the years but proclaim that nothing comes close to American food.

“People rave about American food in Fiji,” Mike stated.

Of course this friendly couple has made many friends over the years from all over the world making many great close friendships. Some of their greatest friendships are with Koreans, Australians and New Zealanders.

Their home is in Pacific Harbor, one hour from Sura the Capital City of Fiji.

In 2020 the couple will celebrate 50 years of marriage and it is clear they are very happy as they laugh about certain times of their lives.

They are happy to now have television with four stations to choose from, certainly different than when they arrived.

When asked what they miss most about the United States Jan said it was the shopping malls

for her.

She explained that women tend to miss more about their homes than the men missionaries as women have to cook everything from scratch there.

When first arriving in Fiji they had to hand wash their clothing and hang dry which was sometimes tough in the tropical climate but they now have a washing machine.

The McMillen’s have done prison ministry the past five years. They explained that the prison system is very different as they train their inmates on how to not come back into the system.

“They care. They really don’t want to see the inmates come back. We train so they don’t,” Mike said. “It is really refreshingly different in their prison system.”

Jan bakes cakes for the inmates but she explained each cake has to be cut up and the guards take a ‘sample’ to make sure there is nothing in the cakes.

Mike gives one to two week training at the prison depending on how much time is given.

“We try to evangelize them. There is no better training than to follow the Bible in prison, caring for people,” he explained.

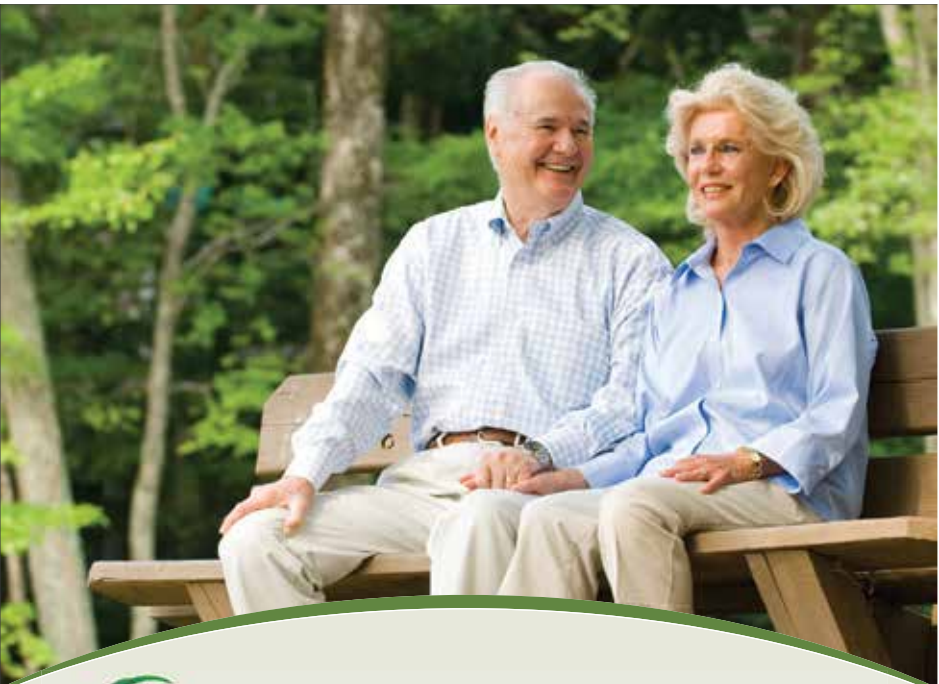
The couple helped with disaster relief during one of the largest hurricanes, Cyclone Winston, which wiped out homes with high winds. This was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Fiji and the Southern Pacific Basin in recorded history.

There were 44 recorded deaths in the Category 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone which also affected Vanuatu, Queensland and Tonga.

Mike said the thought about retiring but this is what retirement looks like in Fiji, helping others.

He has now taken on beekeeping to teach the natives, particularly in their 60’s and 70’s so that they can make some income as not many actually retire there.

The couple has certainly found their home, helping others.



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SPORTS

Bulldogs keep sharp over the holiday with tournament win

By David Vantress
Sports/News Reporter

Most area prep basketball teams took the holiday break off. Not the Gridley High School girls basketball team.

The Bulldogs traveled to Lincoln last weekend to take part in a holiday tournament there. It could not have gone any better for the Bulldogs, who came home with the hardware, easily besting Highlands, 54-30 in the championship game Friday night.

Stephanie Cardenas had 15 points and five steals on her way to earning all-tournament honors for Gridley. Madison Tull had 15 points and 14 rebounds to notch a double-double for the Bulldogs and also earn all-tournament recognition.

Gridley had a tougher time in the semifinals, nipping Rio Linda, 61-60. Cardenas led the Bulldogs with 20 points. Elle Spears had 18 and Tull again had a double-double with 12 points and 16 rebounds.

The Bulldogs opened tournament play on Thursday with a blowout 70-28 win over Marysville.

In that contest, Gridley raced out to a big lead early, outscoring the Indians, 22-4 in the opening frame and never looking back.

Cardenas again led the Bulldogs with 20 points.

With the three wins, Gridley improved to 12-3 on the 2016-17 season.

Gridley coach Becca McCray said her team has gotten help from some backups as key players have been battling injury early in 2016-17.

“We’re developing some depth,” McCray said. “We’re getting some good varsity experience for some of the younger players, and that will pay off later.”

The Bulldogs hosted area rival Live Oak Tuesday night. They will then be idle until Friday, January 13 when they host Orland in a Butte View League contest.



Gridley's Emily Camburn brings the ball up against a Marysville defender in the Lincoln Tournament last Thursday. (Photo by David Vantress)

Effective Communication Strategies

Communication is more than just talking and listening – it’s also about sending and receiving messages through attitude, tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language. As people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias progress in their journey and the ability to use words is lost, families need new ways to connect. Join us to explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer’s, learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

January 26, 2017, from 12:30 – 2 pm, at the Chico Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico, CA 95926. Free event. Seating is limited, please call the Alzheimer’s Association at 530.895.9661 to reserve your seat.



Gridley's Elle Spears vies for the ball up with a Marysville defender in the Lincoln Tournament last Thursday. (Photo by David Vantress)


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PG&E Offers Customers Tips to Stay Safe and Warm

With temperatures expected to drop to the 20s throughout parts of Northern and Central California Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is urging customers to take safety precautions when heating their homes.

Fuel-burning appliances, such as gas furnaces, stoves, ovens and water heaters can increase the risk of carbon monoxide, a toxic gas, when they are not working properly. According to the Center for Disease Control, every year in the U.S. at least 430 people die from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and approximately 50,000 people will be sent to the hospital. If unsafe concentrations of carbon monoxide are present but not detected, the result can be fatal.

“Safety is always our top priority. We want to ensure that our customers stay safe and warm during the coldest days of winter. That’s why we’re asking families and businesses to be particularly careful, and follow a few key safety tips, when using both gas and electric appliances this season,” said Lia White, senior manager of PG&E’s North Valley division.

Electric heating devices, such as space heaters, can also be a safety hazard when used improperly. Improper use has been known to cause fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States and from 2009 to 2013, accounted for 56,000 structure fires per year. Nearly half of these fires occur from December through February. The leading contributing factor to space heater fires is heating equipment too close to objects that can burn, such as furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

PG&E urges customers to focus on safely heating their homes as temperatures dip and offers the following tips:

- Never use products inside the home that generate dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, such as generators, barbecues, propane heaters and charcoal.
- As of 2011, all California single-family homes are required to have carbon monoxide detectors.
- o Installation of the devices will warn when concentration levels are high.
- o Check the expiration date – most carbon

monoxide detectors have a shelf life of five to seven years.

- o Replace the batteries at least twice a year.
- Place space heaters on level, hard, nonflammable surfaces, not on rugs or carpets.
- Don’t put objects on space heaters or use them to dry clothes or shoes.
- Turn off space heaters when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep all flammable materials at least three feet away from heating sources and supervise children when a space heater or fireplace is being used.
- Never use cooking devices such as ovens or stoves for home heating purposes.
- When using the fireplace to stay warm, make sure the flue is open so that the byproducts of combustion can vent safely through the chimney.

If customers suspect there is a problem with a natural gas appliance inside their home, they should call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000. A gas service representative will be dispatched to do a thorough inspection. If you detect carbon monoxide in your home, you should get out immediately and call 911.