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A Failure to Communicate

Newsom, California government cuts back press access



Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media after a meeting with local leaders on homelessness in Sacramento on Nov. 18, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

**By Alexei Koseff,
CALMatters.org**

Like so much else about California, its state government is large: A \$300 billion budget. More than 230 departments and agencies. More than 234,000 employees.

Keeping the public apprised of everything that's happening in that massive bureaucracy requires its own small army of communications staff, who craft messages, write press

releases and answer questions from journalists covering everything from the governor to welfare programs, prisons to water policy.

Lately, however, the information isn't flowing as freely — raising transparency concerns among the press corps that acts as a watchdog for Californians.

Last month, the Capitol Correspondents Association of California, which represents journalists who cover the state Capitol

and advocates for improved press access, distributed guidelines to its members about how to handle some of the increasingly common hurdles they encounter, including government agencies asking for questions in advance and refusing to attribute information to their spokespeople.

Ashley Zavala, president of the correspondents association who covers state government and politics for Sacramento television station KCRA, *Continued on page 3*

PG&E Preparing Gas Transmission Line for Robotic Inspections

PG&E News Release

GRASS VALLEY, CA (MPG) - As part of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's commitment to providing customers with safe and reliable energy, PG&E has embarked on a six-month project to modernize a section of natural gas transmission pipeline running from east Wheatland to west Grass Valley. The modifications will enable In-Line Inspections (ILI) with a state-of-the-art pipeline inspection gauge (PIG).

PG&E will be excavating portions of the pipeline at 13 locations to refine angles within the line so that the special inspection tool dubbed a robotic "pig" can travel inside the length of the 27-mile pipeline. The robotic tool uses probes and sensors



A PG&E gas robotic pig launcher/receiver site in Contra Costa County. Technology gives detailed look inside natural gas pipelines to confirm safe operations. Photo courtesy of PG&E

to study the pipeline from the inside. The tool is looking for anomalies including dents or corrosion. The majority of excavations

will be taking place along Spenceville Road between Indian Springs Road and Highway 20 in Penn Valley.

"This In-Line-Inspection technology is PG&E's preferred method of inspecting our natural gas pipelines,"

Continued on page 3

Get Off Your Apps: April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

**Marysville PD
News Release**

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the Marysville Police Department will be actively looking for drivers throughout the month who are in violation of the state's hands-free cell phone law.

Holding your phone and using it while driving is not only dangerous, but also illegal. Before starting the car, silence your phone or put it in the glove box, trunk or back seat. Anywhere you can't reach.

According to the 2022 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey, nearly 72% of drivers surveyed said that distracted driving because of texting was their biggest safety concern. In 2021, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) issued nearly 56,000 citations for distracted driving.

Under current law, drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or electronic communications device while operating a vehicle. This includes talking, texting, or using an app. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine. Violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense will result in a point being added to a driver's record.

If you have an important phone call, text, email, or in a situation with other distractions, pull over to a safe parking spot. Other distractions can be eating, grooming, reaching for something that fell on the floor, putting on or taking off clothing, talking with passengers, or children in the back seat.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★



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Record Snowfall Anticipated to Bring High, Fast Rivers and Streams



Record snowfall anticipated to bring high, fast rivers and streams this spring. State parks, Dept. of Water Resources and Cal Fire urge the public to take extra precautions as snowmelt increases. Image courtesy of Curt Squires from Pixabay

Cal Fire Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With this season’s statewide snowpack at 227% of average as of March 27, California State Parks’ Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) are urging the public to take extra precautions and to be aware of cold-water dangers this spring to avoid a tragedy. The series of winter storms is causing rising river and stream flow levels not seen in years. The eventual spring warm-up will bring fast flows and cold temperatures when all that snow starts to melt. All Californians are being encouraged to wait until summer to recreate in the water, when conditions are safer.

“After successive low-water drought years, it is imperative that Californians understand water safety in and around rivers, streams, lakes and Sierra reservoirs,” said State Parks Director Armando Quintero. “As the temperature rises, snowmelt-fed waterways can quickly induce incapacitating cold-water shock to even the strongest swimmers. We encourage everyone to follow the advice of public safety officials and avoid entering waterways if asked to do so.”

“California has one of the largest snowpacks on record,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “As this snowpack melts in the coming months, the waterways will be especially cold, fast, and running higher than normal. Be aware of fluctuating water levels. We want everyone to always make safety a top priority when recreating.”

“This year is very different from the last several years, in that the excessive snowpack and rain will continue to create challenges for us in the weeks and months ahead. Rising water levels in rivers and streams will be very cold, very fast and can easily overwhelm those that aren’t prepared or don’t heed warnings,” said CAL FIRE Chief Joe Tyler. “Our teams will continue to focus on localized flooding risks, potential for major flooding, water rescues and our operational capabilities to support our communities moving into the spring and summer months.”

All three departments hope to educate not only regular water enthusiasts but occasional visitors to high, fast-running waterways who may venture near the edge to test the water or take selfies. Just one slip or unwatched child can become a devastating drowning statistic.

Here are some key safety points to

- know before heading outdoors:
Plan Ahead
Prior to leaving home, check the status of the park unit you want to visit to find out what restrictions and guidelines are in place. Know your GPS coordinates so you can provide your location in case of emergency. Alert someone where you are going and your expected return time. Be sure to let them know when you return safely.
- Know the Water**
Do not enter cold, fast-running water. It can be dangerous not only to you but also for first responders. Many unseen obstacles can be lurking below the water’s surface, this is especially the case with this year’s expected high runoff following low water years. Drought-stricken forests and storm-driven landslides have filled rivers with submerged trees and rocks. Swift water can make these obstacles even more treacherous. Sudden immersion in cold water can stimulate the “gasp reflex,” causing an involuntary inhalation of air or water and can start the drowning process immediately. It can even trigger cardiac arrest, temporary paralysis, hypothermia and drowning. Never enter the water to rescue a victim. Throw something that floats and call 9-1-1.
- Know your Limits**
Swimming in open water is more difficult than in a swimming pool, people tire more quickly and can get into trouble. Never go on the water alone. If available, guided trips for solo or inexperienced floaters or paddlers are recommended.
- Know about Life Jackets**
Although life jackets are strongly recommended when recreating in or near waterways, this year’s expected high runoff in rivers can be dangerous even with the use of life jackets. Conditions change quickly in open water and even the best swimmers can misjudge the water and their skills when boating or swimming. Wearing a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket can increase survival time.
- Learn more about life jackets at www.BoatCalifornia.com.
- Know how to Supervise**
Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water, giving them your undivided attention. Do not assume that someone is watching them. Appoint a designated “water watcher,” taking turns with other adults.
- Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool: they need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather.

Californians Spring into Action to Remove Litter, Beautify Neighborhoods

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Thousands of Californians took part in more than 600 “Spring into Action” Clean California Community Days events throughout the state during an 11-day period to clean up roadways, local streets and public spaces.

The series of events from March 17-27 were part of the Clean California initiative, Governor Gavin Newsom’s \$1.2 billion, multiyear cleanup effort led by Caltrans to remove trash, create thousands of jobs and engage communities to transform public spaces.

“Clean California is empowering communities and restoring pride in our shared spaces up and down the state, and I thank the thousands of Californians who banded together for the Community Days events to beautify and transform their neighborhoods,” said Governor Newsom. “By making a difference at the local level, we are helping create a cleaner, more beautiful California for all.”

Clean California Community Days included:

- Hundreds of local events including: 58 tree planting/gardening events with 363 trees planted; 265 community trash collection events; 202 public community clean-ups; 39 educational and entertainment events; and six temporary public art installations;
- 1.64 million pounds of trash collected

during the 11-day period – five times the weight of the Statue of Liberty;

More than 10,500 volunteers participated in community beautification efforts.

“The overwhelming response and participation from Californians throughout the state to transform community spaces demonstrates the power of Clean California,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. “With the support of Governor Newsom and the commitment of our communities, we are reducing litter and making lasting positive change.”

“Californians are looking for ways to engage in their communities to green and beautify neighborhoods, and Clean California is a powerful way for them to take action,” said California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday.

Clean California will continue to engage communities and raise awareness on the negative impact litter has on natural resources, waterways, public safety and public health, driving a cultural shift of shared responsibility and instilling community pride for the cleanliness of our roadways and public spaces. The recently launched “Zero Litter is the Goal” campaign focuses on volunteerism, community activation and grassroots partnerships to maintain the positive momentum of Clean California Community Days.

To encourage local-level engagement, Caltrans is also developing a program in which communities throughout the state can earn a special Clean California designation by meeting criteria centered around preventing and cleaning up litter, promoting recycling, and greening or beautifying neighborhoods.

To support communities with tools and resources, Caltrans will be providing downloadable public education materials on topics such as litter prevention, volunteer recruitment, and K-12 materials. Additionally, members of the community are encouraged to continue to organize their own cleanup events and can get started by visiting CleanCA.com.

Since launching Clean California in July 2021, Caltrans and local partners have removed 1.45 million cubic yards of litter from state highways – the equivalent of more than 24,400 tons or enough trash to fill the Rose Bowl over 3½ times. Caltrans has hired more than 850 team members as part of Clean California. Clean California grants have funded 231 projects to revitalize and beautify underserved communities, some of which are already complete and now sources of community pride. In February, Governor Newsom announced a new round of \$100 million in grants for local beautification projects.

Yuba Water Agency's Grant Program

The Yuba Water Agency has a \$10 million a year grant program. A grant starts out with an application to the Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), which is a kind of clearinghouse for grant applications. The IRWMP asks two questions, is this application from a public agency or organization based in Yuba County, or is this for SYRCL, a Nevada County non-profit. If the answer is yes, the IRWMP posts the application.

At that point, the decision has effectively been made to grant the request. The request does have to be approved by the Directors but that is routine, almost invariably the grant request will be approved. There is an opportunity for public comment when the request comes before the YWA Board, however, such public input has never made any difference.

It has been suggested that a separate commission be established made up of people that have no connection with the Agency. This commission would review grant applications while the application is still under review by the IRWMP. This would provide a second independent review, checks and balances if you will, and the opportunity for public consideration before a request comes before the YWA Board to vote on.

Is this necessary? One needs only to consider what happened with the Yuba Water Agency's grants to the North Yuba Water District. The Agency became resolute in supporting the Water District with grant money even as there was ongoing controversy at meetings, in print and social media, over the actions of the Water District General Manager and Directors. An independent commission would provide a venue for more objective opinions into the Water Agency's funding decisions.

Charles Sharp, Oregon House

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A Failure to Communicate

Continued from page 1

said the extraordinary step was prompted by years of complaints from Capitol press about problems reporting on Gov. Gavin Newsom, his administration and the Legislature. These have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, which accelerated a shift to digital communication that has transformed how the state government discloses its work.

“The pandemic did cause some bad behavior,” Zavala said. “It let some of these agencies and some of these offices get lackadaisical in how they handled the media.”

Many of the standard features of government beat reporting — including in-person press conferences, with an opportunity for follow-up questions, and media phone lines where journalists could talk to a live staffer — disappeared three years ago with the shutdown orders and have been slow to return, if at all.

Changes that reporters and public information officers adopted to do their jobs virtually in a strange new stay-at-home world became ingrained, encouraging practices, such as written statements instead of interviews, that offer less clarity and greater distance between state government and the people it serves.

This tension — between journalists seeking accountability and a bureaucracy that does not always welcome scrutiny — is not new. Covering state government has grown more difficult in recent years with fewer reporters covering the Capitol and social media offering politicians new ways to reach constituents and voters without speaking to the press. Those trends were exacerbated by restrictions applied during the pandemic.

The risk is a decline of “open, honest and transparent communication” essential to the functioning of democracy, said David Loy, legal director of the First Amendment Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for a free press and government disclosure.

Media outlets across the state note rejected interview requests, challenges obtaining public records or the lack of any official response in their stories (see this story online at CalMatters.org for specific details).

“These message control practices do real harm to the public interest,” Loy said. “Because the people need to know the full story, not just the official story.”

No standard communications policy

There is no shortage of people responsible for the state government’s communication of public information: 435 employees in the executive branch, to be exact, according to a count conducted for CalMatters by the Department of Human Resources. An analysis of salary ranges based on job titles found that the annual cost to taxpayers is between \$36.5 million and \$44.8 million.

There are even more press aides working for other branches, such as the Legislature, the judiciary and public universities. The jobs of these communications officials extend beyond answering reporters’ questions and can include duties such as developing public relations strategies, writing speeches and managing social media accounts.

Yet, besides laws mandating open meetings and the release of public records, California does not have standards for appropriate public communications. Policies are at the discretion of those hundreds of individual agencies and departments.

Emails, not interviews

The obstacles and troubling behavior highlighted by the Capitol Correspondents Association of California are broader and more pervasive.

Many offices have moved nearly entirely toward written communications, directing a

reporter who does reach someone by phone to instead send their questions by email.

During the pandemic, Julie Watts of television station CBS Sacramento spent two years investigating health and safety failures at a state-funded COVID-19 testing lab. She was never allowed to speak with Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly, who oversaw the state’s coronavirus response, or Department of Public Health officials about her findings, even after Newsom directed her questions to Ghaly.

Watts said she was forced to rely on written statements, which documents and reports often later revealed to be inaccurate or untrue. Was California getting false information about the effectiveness of the lab, or covering up negligence?

“The answers they were sending us in writing were disingenuous,” Watts said, adding that it made her question whether the state had something to hide. “We were talking about complex, scientific issues. And it’s difficult to convey that to the public when it’s hundreds of back-and-forth emails.”

The written responses crafted by communications staff are often sent anonymously from a general email account, as though coming from the entire faceless bureaucracy rather than a particular spokesperson. For example, media inquiries fulfilled by the state Department of Justice, which is overseen by Attorney General Rob Bonta, are generally signed only “Press Office.”

Demanding better practices

In the guidelines it shared with reporters last month, the correspondents association recommended that media describe the rejection of an interview request in the story, alongside the written statement that an agency provides instead.

The association urged journalists not to provide questions in advance of an interview, other than a general description of the information they are seeking, writing: “Journalism ethics requires us to maintain our objectivity, and by giving these questions in advance you would be providing the office or agency an opportunity to rehearse for a basic function of their job and take control of the messaging.”

Speed vs. accuracy

State communications officials said they aim to provide timely and accurate information to the media and the public, but those values are not always aligned.

Complex inquiries from reporters can require consulting multiple subject-matter experts for thorough answers and obtaining many layers of approval, sometimes in conjunction with other agencies.

Officials said they generally ask for questions in advance because it helps them determine who is best equipped to handle the inquiry. Providing interviews with agency staff can require a lot of preparation and coordinating schedules, so they often prefer to send written responses instead.

Because many state employees are still primarily working from home, some large communications offices do everything by email so that their staff can collectively track and respond to the media inquiries they receive throughout the day.

These policies are generally not unlawful, noted Loy of the First Amendment Coalition, because public officials and state agencies are not legally obligated to speak to the press.

But many of them are nevertheless antithetical to the spirit of open government, he said, preventing journalists from obtaining the public information that they need to hold the government to account.

“Is the government there to serve the people or is the government there to be a spin machine?” Loy said. “It may seem inconvenient to the government, but at the end of the day, a government that is most accountable to the people is the best government.” ★

PG&E Preparing Gas Transmission Line for Robotic Inspections

Continued from page 1

said Joe Wilson, regional vice president for PG&E’s North Valley & Sierra Region. “It helps us validate that the pipeline is in safe and compliant operating condition. Identifying these issues quickly and efficiently helps keep our communities safe.”

The inspection tool will enter the pipeline at a portal with above-ground pipes at a fenced launcher facility in northeast Wheatland. PG&E will also expand this launcher facility.

The receiver site, where the tool is taken out of the line, is located off Squirrel Creek Road in west Grass Valley near the middle of four private parcels. This facility will also be fenced and only occasional visited by crews for inspections and maintenance.

While PG&E is working on the 6 and 8-inch diameter pipeline, portions of it will be void of gas. To keep customers supplied with gas, PG&E will use portable compressed natural gas (CNG) and inject the gas into the pipeline downstream of the work areas.

PG&E is also building an injection

port for the CNG or liquified natural gas at the northwest corner of Adam Avenue and Rough and Ready Highway in Grass Valley. While work on the gas transmission line is occurring, PG&E will keep gas flowing to customers in Grass Valley by injecting portable natural gas. Once work on the line is completed, the site will have very little activity going forward except for maintenance or if gas again needs to be injected at the location.

PG&E is notifying customers near work sites by letter and outbound automated phone calls.

The entire project should be completed in the before fall. Weather and other factors that affect safe working conditions may change the schedule.

PG&E regularly inspects pipelines to proactively ensure the safety and reliability of its gas system. PG&E has also strength-tested and replaced pipelines, adding remote-control and automatic shut-off valves that can stop the flow of gas faster in an emergency, and checking for leaks on a strict schedule. ★

Yuba Water’s Board Approves Funding for Local Hydropower Improvements and More

Yuba Water Agency Press Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Water supply in Yuba County is in excellent condition. That was one of the key takeaways from the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors meeting.

“After three very dry years, Yuba County’s water supply is in fantastic shape this year, thanks to the exceptionally wet and snowy winter we’ve had,” said Ryan McNally, Yuba Water’s director of water resources and flood risk reduction.

In a presentation to the board, McNally described the health of Yuba County’s surface and groundwater supplies and how Yuba Water works closely with its local irrigation partners to manage those supplies. McNally also detailed the agency’s extensive water delivery infrastructure and planned upgrades to ensure continued water supply reliability.

“Yuba Water truly takes pride in managing our shared water resources in partnership with our local irrigation districts, which we call our member units,” McNally continued. “This includes sharing and working from the same technical information to inform what actions we’re taking.”

In addition to discussing the agency’s partnerships and efforts to ensure a reliable water supply for the region, Yuba Water’s board committed more than \$1.8 million to help Browns Valley Irrigation District modernize its hydropower facility at Virginia Ranch Dam, located at Collins Lake.

The 38-year-old system is nearing the end of its life and requires significant maintenance. Delays and challenges related to sourcing specialty parts and equipment needed to keep the powerhouse running has resulted in longer and more frequent outages.

“Aging infrastructure and supply chain challenges are something we’re familiar

with in Yuba County and beyond,” said Willie Whittlesey, Yuba Water’s general manager. “BVID is one of our oldest irrigation partners, and we’re glad to support their operational reliability as we all continue to navigate these types of uncertainties.”

BVID estimates that replacing the aging system will cost approximately \$3.6 million and has already committed \$750,000 as the local share. Yuba Water’s funds will be used to leverage federal funding through the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy for the Hydroelectric Improvement Incentives Program, which supports the modernization of small hydroelectric facilities.

Applications for the program are due by the end of June. If BVID’s application is successful, the federal funding will cover 30 percent of the overall cost of the upgrade.

Lastly, the board authorized staff to file a California Environmental Quality Act notice of exemption for its planned Power Systems Headquarters Project, which allows the agency to move forward with the bid process for the project. A third-party analysis conducted by GEI Consultants determined that the project qualifies for streamlined environmental review.

The purpose of the project is to relocate Yuba Water’s current headquarters from an aging building adjacent to New Colgate Powerhouse at the base of Lake Francis Road, which is no longer adequate to accommodate the agency’s current staff and future hires. The new building will be located on Marysville Road in Oregon House.

The estimated cost of the project is \$35 million to \$45 million. A final construction budget with additional details on the project will be brought back for board approval in the coming weeks.

Learn more about Yuba Water Agency’s partners and projects at yubawater.org. ★

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‘Stories of the Museum’

Series 15 by Bill Crocker, CDR, USNR, Ret.

Museum of the Forgotten Warriors board member and webmaster

More than a thousand military men and women and family members have donated thousands of personal items and stories to the Museum of the Forgotten Warriors over the past forty years. The displays span World War I to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and tell the stories of those who fought and died. The series, *Stories of the Museum*, describes a few of these in more detail.



VETERAN VOLUNTEERS

This is my last article in the *Stories of the Museum* series and features the military service of the veterans who have been intimately involved with the management of the museum, some for over thirty years. It continues to be my pleasure to serve with these honored veterans and dedicated volunteers.

Brock Bowen entered the Navy in 1967, completed boot camp, San Diego; sent to the Philippines awaiting the arrival of the aircraft carrier USS *Ticonderoga*; served in air intelligence on the carrier for two years; returned to civilian life in 1968.

Bill Crocker served one year aboard USS *Constellation*; three years, Naval Hospital Philadelphia as a microbiologist; four years, Italy including a meningitis epidemic in Morocco and a typhoid epidemic in Ethiopia; nineteen years as a reservist; retiring 1989 as a commander, medical service corps.

Bert Johnson completed Army boot camp in 1968 and was ordered to Vietnam as a machine gunner where he served eighteen months, then Fort Irwin as a tank driver to complete his two-year obligation; left the service as a corporal in 1970.

Mike O'Connor entered the Army in the Warrant Officer Flight Program in July 1966 and sent to Vietnam in August 1967, wounded 13 October 1967, shot down 4 February 1968. His brave crew was killed, he was captured. He returned home as a chief warrant officer 5 March 1973 as a part of Operation Homecoming.

Tammy Pack completed boot camp, 1988 and served in Greece; USS *San Diego*, 1990 in the Persian Gulf as a radioman third class and radio shack watch supervisor during three military operations; discharged, 1992; re-enlisted in the Naval Reserve 1997 and trained over 2,000 Seabees in field communications; left the service as an information systems technician third class in 2004.

Tony Pinto volunteered for service in Vietnam as a water purification specialist and an explosive ordinance disposal technician with the Army's 1st Cavalry Division



Light Infantry Brigade as an instructor; and finally state-side service as a reserve corporal until 1975.

Don Schrader entered the Army in 1963; completed boot camp and advance infantry training, Fort Polk; electronics and cryptography school, Fort Monmouth; eighteen months in Vietnam locating microwave communication sites; two years, Fort Huachuca; left the service in 1967 as a specialist 5 / E-5.

Phil Speck entered the Air Force in 1967 as enlisted; two years aircraft warning radar; two years, officer training school, Lackland AFB; one year pilot training, Laredo AFB; four years, Grand Forks AFB as a KC-130 pilot including six deployments to Vietnam; four years, Webb AFB; three years, Castle AFB; one year, Korea; then Travis AFB, and Mather AFB, retiring 1987 as a captain.

Ray Wade entered the Navy in 1965, completed boot camp in San Diego, and was assigned to the USS *Kitty Hawk*. He served for three years in the supply depart-

Vietnam tours and discharged in 1968.

Austin Webb served eleven years as a B-47 crew chief McConnell AFB; one year Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, during Bay of Pigs; eight years Westover AFB, quality control; one year, Beale AFB, KC-135 flight chief; one year Binh Thuy AB, Vietnam; returning to Beale AFB, retiring as a senior master sergeant.

Mary Webb served four years at Westover AFB as an administrative clerk/typist; one year at Beale AFB, special orders section; two years at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam; returned for one year to Beale AFB to the position previously held; then left the military as a staff sergeant in February 1973. ★

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Jury Finds Man Guilty of Domestic Violence against Marysville Woman

Yuba County DA News Release

YUBA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A Yuba County Jury found 28-year-old Joshua James Slaughter guilty Wednesday of Felony Domestic Violence.

“Jane” and Slaughter met on a dating app and began dating around July 2022. On the morning of September 7, 2022, Jane told Slaughter she needed some space and asked him to leave her Marysville home. Slaughter, who had been yelling at Jane, refused to leave. When Jane attempted to walk away from him, Slaughter grabbed her by both arms and threw her face-first into the wall. Jane, testifying at the preliminary hearing in September 2022, said it felt like her face had been “crushed.” Jane got up and ran to her front door. She opened the door and began screaming repeatedly for Slaughter to leave. Jane called the police. Jane’s four-year-old daughter was in the apartment during this incident.

Marysville Police Officer Autumn Rosenfeld responded to Jane’s 911 call. Officer Rosenfeld observed that Jane was distraught, holding an icepack to her face. She also observed a bleeding cut on the Jane’s nose. Slaughter, who is 6 feet tall and over 200 pounds, claimed he was defending himself.

Jane developed bruising to both of her biceps where Slaughter grabbed her, and two black eyes and possibly a broken nose from him throwing her into the wall.

Jurors heard from multiple witnesses

during the trial, including the responding Marysville Police Officers and Slaughter himself. Jane, who had testified previously at the preliminary hearing, moved from the area and was unavailable for trial. Her prior testimony was read to the jury. The jury also heard from one of Slaughter’s prior girlfriends, “Sally,” who also dated Slaughter for a couple of months in 2022. Sally testified that Slaughter acted controlling and jealous, and repeatedly physically assaulted her during their short relationship. Slaughter, for his part, told the jury that Jane’s injuries were either caused by him “accidentally”, or by her purposely jumping into the wall face-first. The jury deliberated for approximately an hour before finding Slaughter guilty.

Yuba County Deputy District Attorney Brad Morrow tried the case. MPD Officer Autumn Rosenfeld served as the investigating officer. Sentencing is set for May 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Slaughter, who remains free pending sentencing, faces up to four years in state prison.

Thank you to all the law enforcement officers who contributed to the investigation. A special thank you to Jane and Sally, who showed great courage by reporting Slaughter’s violence and testifying in court. Your courage to stand against evil is admirable and will protect others. Thank you also to the jurors who took time out of their busy lives to honor their civic duty and ensure that justice is served. ★



Marysville Joint Unified is Hiring

(MARYSVILLE, CA) The Marysville Joint Unified School District is currently recruiting 75 full and part-time positions across the district for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

“The student population at Marysville Joint Unified School District is projected to grow substantially over the next six years,” said Gabe Simon, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services. “We have a need for new and veteran educators to support our students and are seeking skilled educators with a heart for growing tomorrow’s leaders,” he finished.

With a large number of ongoing needs in the classroom, MJUSD is actively seeking candidates for teaching positions. Interested applicants who possess a bachelor’s degree and would like to secure their teaching credential through MJUSD’s Teacher Residency program for the 2023-24 school year are invited to attend an orientation on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the District Office, located at 1919 B Street in Marysville. Teacher residents will be able to work part-time and receive up to \$28,000 towards their tuition and/or living expenses while they earn their teaching credential.

There are several openings for cafeteria workers, after school support providers and classroom aides. MJUSD also offers on-site training and certification for candidates interested in job opportunities in the Transportation Department.

The district offers a competitive pay schedule that honors up to 12 years of service and provides excellent teacher support and professional development opportunities. Health, vision, dental and retirement savings are included in the comprehensive benefits packages offered to MJUSD full-time employees.

Most new positions begin August 7, 2023. Explore employment opportunities and apply at www.edjoin.org/mjUSD.

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Trailer Bills: A Sneaky Way to Make a Big Change in California Law



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

California’s governors and legislators have, as often noted in this space, developed a bad habit of using the state budget to make sweeping changes in state law while minimizing or ignoring traditional legislative procedures.

They do it with so-called “budget trailer bills” that are often passed in batches coincident with the budget each June after minimal hearings and debate. Like the budget, they take effect immediately and are shielded from being challenged via referendum.

It can take weeks or even months for those outside the Capitol to figure out the real-life impacts and decipher the dense legalese of trailer bills, which often run hundreds of pages.

The Legislature is once again plowing through the latest budget, this one proposed by Gov. Gavin Newsom for the 2023-24 fiscal year, prior to the last frantic – and largely secret – negotiations on a final version.

Dozens of would-be trailer bills are kicking around, some of them legitimately attached to the budget, and some just using the process to minimize scrutiny.

One of the most complex, potentially important trailer bills, not yet formally introduced, would overhaul how

electrical energy is procured. It would make the state Department of Water Resources the state’s central purchaser of power, citing the need to construct or acquire enough non-polluting generation to meet the state’s self-proclaimed goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2045.

What could possibly go wrong?

California’s track record on managing the state power supply is, to say the least, spotty.

A quarter-century ago, California experimented with what was termed “deregulation,” but really wasn’t, of electricity, and it quickly became one of the worst human-caused disasters in state history. It allowed power suppliers to game the system, pushed costs through the ceiling, drove one utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, into bankruptcy, almost did the same to another, Southern California Edison, and was a major reason voters recalled a governor, Gray Davis.

The Department of Water Resources became, for a time, the state’s central power buyer because its water supply system was, and is, a major generator of electricity and a major purchaser.

After the experiment was repealed, California returned to its previous system, based on purchases by utilities such as PG&E and SCE and regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. But a few years later, the state embarked on its quest for carbon neutrality, greatly complicating the situation.

Simultaneously, the state is trying to phase out power

from generation by hydrocarbons, such as natural gas, while increasing the overall supply in expectation that demand will grow as other activities, such as transportation, make the same transition to electricity.

It hasn’t gone smoothly. The state has flirted with blackouts on hot days when air conditioning imposes huge demands and has been forced to keep the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant and several gas-fired generators, which had been scheduled for closure, online to avoid shortages.

So would making the state water agency the electric power czar again be the solution to meeting deadlines for decarbonization?

The Legislature’s independent budget analyst, Gabe Patek, is one skeptic. His office issued a report urging lawmakers to take enough time to analyze such a major change and questioning its necessity and its potential effect on California consumers, who are already paying some of the nation’s highest power rates.

Patek’s report also questions the need to use a fast-track budget trailer bill for such a momentous change, saying “Ultimately, ensuring it (the Legislature) has the time and opportunities for developing a greater understanding, sufficient input from stakeholders, and thoughtful deliberation will be vital to ensuring it can make an informed decision on these important proposals.”

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



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The Feds Trouble of Their Own Making

I often scratch my head when it comes to the movements of the Federal Reserve (FED).

Responsible for raising and lowering interest rates, currently they are raising rates to try and quell inflation. Inflation of their own making I might add.

It’s a well-known fact that printing up copious amounts of money to fund government, bailout financial institutions and stave off economic pull backs, if done to excess, will cause inflation.

Such is our current fate.

Increasing all the money in circulation by about 80% in the last half a decade to stem off the economic collapse brought about by the CoVid shutdowns, all that newly created cash has fostered the worst inflation in 40 years. In an attempt to reduce it, the FEDS have implemented an historic series of rate increases.

As often occurs in economic mechanics however, trying to fix one problem can result in other problems. A great example of this is the current banking crisis.

Banks take in deposits and are only required to keep a fraction of those deposits in cash. The rest they invest in a variety of highly regulated holdings.

A common practice is to loan short term but invest long term. What this means is they pay customers a small percentage on their deposits, then buy long term debt instruments that pays a higher percentage than they what pay out and pocket the difference.

All well and good until interest rates start to rise. Locked into longer term debt whose interest rate is fixed, when rates rise, the face value of that debt falls.

It works like this. Suppose a bank pays you 2% on your savings accounts. To cover that payment, they might buy a five year bond (which is basically an IOU) paying 4%. Remember, the longer the term of the loan, the higher interest it pays.

When rates rise (forced up by the FED as they are doing now), the bond the banks bought, which pays them 4%, then falls in value. This is because if rates rise, a new five year bond might now be paying 6%.

The problem arises when customers start withdrawing money in economic downturns to pay bills. In the case of all the recent bank failures, and the cause of most bank failures in general, customers increase their withdrawals as the economy slows. Since the bank is only required to keep a fraction of the deposits on hand and invest the rest, the bank soon runs out

of cash, and now has to sell those 5 year bonds (paying 4%) to raise cash to meet withdrawals. But who would buy a bond paying 4% when the new ones, because of rising rates, pay 6%?

No one.

So the bank has to *discount the face value of the bond* to entice buyers of their bonds that only pay 4% in the current 6% environment,

So if the bank bought a \$1,000 bond way back when paying 4%, they have to sell the bond for less than \$1,000 to compensate the buyer of that bond for the lower 4% interest rate since new bonds pay 6%.

Bingo, the bank starts taking losses having to sell its bonds for less than what they bought them for.

The more withdrawals that occur, the more bonds have to be sold. The losses mount, until such a point where the losses break the bank. Known as the old fashion “bank run”, the bank runs out of cash and then suffers horrible losses on the sale of its bonds. The bank may eventually close the doors and short pay their customers or wait for a bailout.

In a nutshell, the increase in rates by the FED dooms the banks to losses if customers start massive withdrawals over and beyond what cash the banks keep on hand.

The FEDs aren’t dummies. They know how this mechanism works. But having to quell the inflation they caused by printing up insane amounts of money during the last few decades, they have to now raise rates.

This may cause banks to take massive losses on their bond portfolios as nervous Americans run to withdraw their life savings. And round and round we go.

Like I said, one problem begets a solution which in turn can cause another problem.

The real problem, in this analyst’s opinion, is the FED itself. Raising rates to address inflation now opens up a whole new can of worms.

“Watching the markets so you don’t have to”

This article expresses the opinion of Marc Cuniberti and is not meant as investment advice, or a recommendation to buy or sell any securities, nor represents the opinion of any bank, investment firm or RIA, nor this media outlet, its staff, members or underwriters. Mr. Cuniberti holds a B.A. in Economics with honors, 1979, and California Insurance License #0L34249.★



Storms, Flood Waters Wreak Havoc in Key Farming Regions

Months of heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding have dealt a new financial blow to California farmers. After a multi-year drought that had them following land and plowing under crops, they now face flooded fields, property damage and crop delays. The damage has extended from dairies and orchards in the San Joaquin Valley to strawberry and vegetable fields along the Central Coast, with potential longer-term fallout impacting some of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

Court Rejects Challenges to Water Quality Rules for Farm Irrigation

A Sacramento appeals court has sided with California farmers on three cases related to water quality regulations, which environmental groups had challenged for years. In deciding cases in favor of the California Farm Bureau and the California State Water Resources Control Board, the Third District Court of Appeal upheld the Central Valley’s Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Environmental groups had challenged the program as insufficient under the law. The program is intended to protect water quality in the Eastern San Joaquin watershed.

Farm Bureau Members Engage with Lawmakers During Capitol Ag Conference

Farmers and ranchers from across California went to work this month on the legislative agenda for the California Farm Bureau – with Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, state lawmakers and agency officials present for direct conversations. Water supply issues and recent flood impacts for agriculture fueled discussions at the March 27-29 Capitol Ag Conference in Sacramento. The Farm Bureau’s March 28 Legislative Day also featured meetings at the state Capitol with numerous legislators and staff.

Desert Farming Region is at a Crossroads Amid Colorado River Crisis

Every year, as many as 15,000 people with U.S. citizenship or legal status cross the border at the Mexicali-Calexico port of entry. They join the local farm workforce in the sprawling Imperial Valley region, which produces as much as 90% of America’s winter vegetables. As Ag Alert reports in the final installment of its series on Imperial Valley farming, the Colorado River crisis may threaten agricultural employment in the region, where the \$2.9 billion agriculture sector accounts for one-fourth of the regional economy and one of every six jobs. ★



There is activity in the garden area by the bookstore. Three large raised beds have been built by Randy Milligan (thanks so much). Liz Lucas has been a regular at the garden, cleaning, planning and more. Josh is a great help, too. Now to begin to work the garden itself. We need soil, manure, plants and help. Consider using one of the beds for herbs that could be sold each week at the Farmer’s Market. Think about planting your own veggies: tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and more. Although the sun is limited there, we have had vegetables ripen in late summer. Some of the plants like cooler weather and could be started soon: peas, chard, spinach, radishes and more. It takes a bit of work a couple of times a week to keep it watered and weeded once it is planted. Just stop in and give it a look and think about helping with this project.

At the YF Historical Assn board meeting this week, the regular summer opening of the museum was being planned. The opening date is June 3.

They plan to have the museum and village open each weekend from 12:00 – 4:00 through the summer. It takes a “village” or large group of people to keep this going, however. It would be great to have a few more volunteers to help keep it open. Help is needed to greet visitors, serve ice cream at the socials, and help out with general upkeep. Their summer Special Day will be Family Day on July 15 and will feature many interesting activities: music, food, gun fighters and more. Watch for the fliers. There is a great group of people working there and would love to have a bit more help. Contact the museum (530 675-1025) or Books & More (530 675-3275).

Look Back in Time – In 1940 the LaPorte Rd was open beyond Strawberry Valley, but chains were needed due to deep mud and many holes (wonder if it was paved).

Hope to see you in Brownsville soon. Yvonne ★

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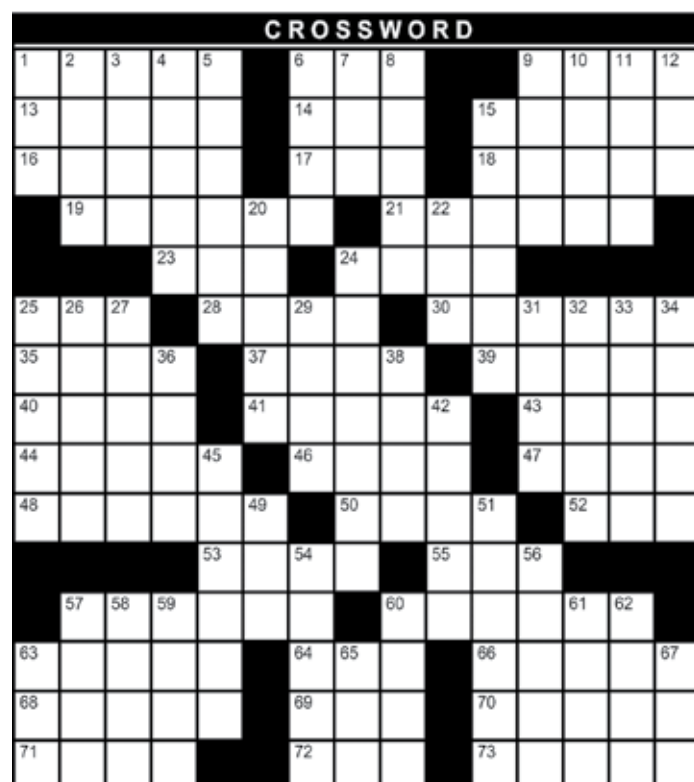
CLUES

ACROSS

1. Unsuitable
6. Agency behind food labels, acr.
9. Pastoral sounds
13. More painful
14. "Maggie May" singer
15. Secret storage
16. Hajj destination
17. Inflated feeling
18. One in a quiver
19. *Scooby-Doo's best friend
21. *Stone Age Fred's best friend
23. Zip
24. Type of wave
25. "Mangial"
28. Apple leftover
30. Unlike Pinocchio
35. Law school test acronym
37. Tiger's forte
39. Jack Black's Libre
40. For ____ kitchen counter
41. Jewish folklore creature
43. Singer Whitman of "Secret Love" fame
44. Formerly known as dropsy
46. Spanish Surrealist
47. Stay out of its way!
48. Make a remake
50. Shawm
52. Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no ____"
53. Like hard times
55. Tube in old TV, acr.
57. *Jessica or Peter
60. *Anthropomorphic squirrel's last name
63. Small and elegant
64. Mozart's "L' ____ del Cairo"
66. Like a whistle?
68. Optical illusion creation (2 words)
69. "Time," e.g., colloquially
70. Hint of color
71. "The Way We ____"
72. Farm pen
73. Skedaddle

DOWN

1. What hedonism and idealism have in common
2. Rejections
3. Flatfoot's lack
4. Pie option
5. Calamitous
6. One of the Eagles
7. *Pluto or Snoopy
8. Acrobat maker
9. Rural building
10. Homesteader's purchase, sing.
11. Nabisco's "Chips ____"
12. To use a Singer
15. Dairy industry missing person-seeking prop
20. Nordic glühwein
22. Ooh and
24. Troublemaker
25. *Fudd's first name
26. Line to the audience
27. "It is silent," in sheet music
29. Living space
31. Don Johnson's Bridges
32. Plaudit and pomp
33. Bake an egg
34. *One of the Pickles
36. Like a broken horse



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38. *Phineas' stepbrother
42. Be a parasite
45. Just about (2 words)
49. Hula necklace
51. Builds a tower, e.g.
54. Very small particles
56. Opposite of ecbat
57. Ready for picking
58. A bit cracked
59. Not the life of the party
60. Same as cagey
61. Lotto variant
62. Palm starch
63. Gift topper
65. *Garfield or Tom
67. Butterfly catcher



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7	9	8	2	5	1	4	6	3
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GOMEZ – Martin Ramos Gomez, 62, of Yuba City, passed away March 28, 2023. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

HEAD – Virginia Head, 64, of Loma Rica, passed away April 5, 2023. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

SORICH – Nancy Sorich, 77, of Yuba City, passed away April 6, 2023. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.


YORK – Mark York, 75, of Yuba City, passed away April 7, 2023. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FOR MINOR DESIGN REVIEWS LUSE-23-0025
and LUSE-23-0026 (KB HOMES)
BEFORE THE PLUMAS LAKE DESIGN
REVIEW COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public meeting will be held before the Plumas Lake Design Review Committee (PLDRC) on Thursday, April 27th, at 6:00 p.m. or soon thereafter via Zoom. In compliance with Government Code section 54953(e), members of the PLDRC and members of the public can participate in the meeting by teleconference via Zoom to consider the following:

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Mobile: +1 408 638 0968 US

LUSE-23-0025: A request by KB Homes to modify their previously approved Design Review application (DRC2021-0007) on their 50 foot wide lots in the Cobblestone Subdivision. The project site is located east of River Oaks Blvd and north of Feather River Boulevard, on the southern portion of the Plumas Lake Specific Plan. The proposed changes consist of removing window grids, reducing the use of stone and brick veneer, removing some decorative vents/corbels, and lowering some roof pitches.

LUSE-23-0026: A request by KB Homes to modify their previously approved Design Review application (DRC2022-0002) on their 40 foot wide lots in the Cobblestone Subdivision. The project site is located east of River Oaks Blvd and north of Feather River Boulevard, on the southern portion of the Plumas Lake Specific Plan. The proposed changes consist of removing window grids, reducing the use of stone and brick veneer, removing some decorative vents/corbels, and lowering some roof pitches.

Any person wishing to testify on the above project may appear before the **PLDRC** at the prescribed time via Zoom or may submit written comments or objections to the Community Development and Services Agency at 915 8th Street, Suite 123, Marysville, CA 95901, prior to the meeting the project file is available for inspection at the same address. If you have any questions, you may contact Ciara Fisher, Planner III at (530) 749-5470.

The **PLDRC's** action on the project may be appealed by any interested person to the Board of Supervisors by filing a written appeal with the Clerk of the Board within 10 days following the **PLDRC's** final action on the project. If the Board of Supervisors is the final Approving Authority, or if the project is appealed to the Board, the Board's action is final.

If you challenge the action of the **PLDRC** on this matter in court, pursuant to Government Code section 65009 you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Department at, or prior to the meeting. (TD) April 14, 2023

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-071

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

**EA Family Services
Lake Francis Resort
Camp Rockin' U**
350 Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971
County of Plumas

1) Environmental Alternatives
350 Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/12/2017.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
**Mark Cross,
Board Secretary
California/California**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 6, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-090

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Casino Marysville
515 4th Street
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) EMZE LLC
3155 Lynde St.
Oakland, CA 94601

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Myrna Zhang

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 21, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
MANDY LUIS
Deputy Clerk
Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 2023.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR MINOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
LUSE-22-0022 (CEMETERY EXPANSION)
BEFORE THE YUBA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
REVIEW COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the staff report is available for public review and a public hearing will be held before the Yuba County Development Review Committee (DRC) on Thursday, May 4th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter, in the Board Chambers, Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street, Marysville, CA. In compliance with Government Code section 54953(e), members of the DRC and members of the public can also participate in the meeting by teleconference via Zoom to consider the following:

Join Zoom
Web Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83979161830
Meeting ID: 839 7916 1830
Mobile: +1 408 638 0968 US

Minor Conditional Use Permit LUSE-22-0022 (Cemetery Expansion): The applicant is requesting to expand an existing cemetery to preserve both passive and scenic views and also to accommodate additional burial plots. The project property is unaddressed (APN: 048-270-031). The main address used is 12585 Rices Crossing Road (APN: 048-260-060), a 434± acre parcel which is located on the north side of Rices Crossing Road and roughly 0.22± a mile east of Via Aurelio Road, in the community of Oregon House. The 2030 General Plan designates the land use as Natural Resources and the zoning designation as Agricultural Residential, 20 Acres Minimum (AR-20). The project is exempt from CEQA per exemption Section 15300, Class 23 Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings).

Any person wishing to testify on the above projects may attend the DRC in person and by teleconference via **Zoom** at the prescribed time, or may submit written comments or objections to the Community Development and Services Agency at 915 8th Street, Suite 123, Marysville, CA 95901, prior to the hearing. Copies of the staff recommendations are available for inspection at the same address. If you have any questions, you may contact Vanessa Franken at (530) 749-5685.

The **DRC's** action on the project may be appealed by any interested person to the Board of Supervisors by filing a written appeal with the Planning Department within 10 days following the DRC's final action on the project. If the Board of Supervisors is the final Approving Authority, or if the project is appealed to the Board, the Board's action is final.

If you challenge the action of the **DRC** on this matter in court, pursuant to Government Code section 65009 you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Department at, or prior to the hearing. (TD) April 14, 2023

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-092

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Living Gifts by Cynthia
2316 Foust Street
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) Cynthia Lynn Vieira
2316 Foust Street
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Cynthia Lynn Vieira
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 22, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-089

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

**WHEATLAND NATURAL
MEATS BEEF**
6900 Eric Lane
Wheatland, CA 95692
County of Yuba
1) Top Shelf Ranch, LLC
6900 Eric Lane
Wheatland, CA 95692
This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Co.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 3/1/2023.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Taylor Zapata CA

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 20, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
Mar 31, Apr 7, 14, 21, 2023.



FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-053

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

RAFTER MJ RANCH
4260 Sunny Rd.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
County of Yuba
1) Jack Massey
75 Sharp Street
Roundup, MT 59072
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 9/29/1969.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Jack N. Massey
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 1, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-082

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

**Preston's Maintenance
Crew**
1780 River Run Drive
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) Preston Gonzalez
1780 River Run Drive
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 3-1-2023.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Preston Gonzalez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 7, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
Mar. 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2023.

COUNTY OF YUBA

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

The following is a summary of a proposed ordinance to be considered by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yuba for adoption on April 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in the Board Chambers.

The ordinance amends Chapters 13.00.030, 13.00.031, 13.00.032, 13.00.034, 13.00.036, 13.00.038, 13.00.040, 13.00.042, 13.00.044, 13.00.046, 13.00.050, 13.00.052, 13.00.054, 13.00.060, 13.00.070, 13.20.100, 13.20.300, 13.20.600, AND 13.20.700; and establishes Chapter 13.00.020 of the Yuba County Consolidated Fee Ordinance Code.

The complete copy of the text of the proposed ordinance may be reviewed in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office, at the Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street, Suite 109, Marysville

Mary Pasillas
April 14, 2023 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Marysville Mini Storage, 528 14th Street, Marysville, CA 95901 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, known as the "California Self Service Storage Facilities Act", Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

This auction will be conducted **online at www.bid13.com, starting at 10:00 am on Tuesday April 18, 2023 and end at 10:00 am on Wednesday April 26, 2023**. If there are no bidders, the property will be donated or disposed of accordingly. Property to be sold as follows: household goods, personal items, furniture, etc. belonging to the following:

Name:
Naecole L Gutierrez
Roy Hayes

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in CASH only. All purchased items sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. 530-742-6898 (TD) April 7, 14, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION
UPDATING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT OWNER OCCUPIED
REHABILITATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES
YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Yuba County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**, or soon thereafter as the matter will be heard, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 915 8th Street, Marysville, California, regarding the following:

The County of Yuba is proposing to update the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program Guidelines.

The purpose of the public hearing is to accept public comment on the above matter, you may appear before the Board at the above time and place, written or emailed comments are also invited, and should be received no later than 4:00 p.m. April 24, 2023. Comments may be sent to the attention of Amanda Stoltz, Housing Manager of Yuba County Community Development and Services, 915 8th Street, Suite 123, Marysville, CA 95901 or electronically at astoltz@co.yuba.ca.us. If you have any further questions, you may contact Amanda Stoltz at (530) 749-5470.

MARY PASILLAS,
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-091

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MVP Transport
6362 Stonehedge Drive
Loma Rica, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) Marc Dustin Verbish
6362 Stonehedge Drive
Loma Rica, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/01/2023.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Marc D. Verbish

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 21, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
BRIDGETTE EVANS
Deputy Clerk
Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023F-103

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

All The Claw Things
1773 Bromley Ct.
Plumas Lake, CA 95961
County of Yuba

1) Suzanna Krissie Ellis
1773 Bromley Ct.
Plumas Lake, CA 95961

2) Christopher Lee Ellis
1773 Bromley Ct.
Plumas Lake, CA 95961

This business is conducted by a Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/01/2021.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Christopher L. Ellis

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on March 31, 2023.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

Community Events

SPRING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM • APRIL 15

Located on Ellis Lake Island. 10 to 12. Join us for a bi-lingual storytelling. Brought to you by Mary Aaron Museum. Donation of \$10 gladly accepted. For group reservations 530-218-4070.

NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK APRIL 23-29, 2023

Sutter Victim Services will be hosting their 1st Annual Day of Remembrance at 6 pm Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Sutter County Veterans Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Circle in Yuba City. For more info call 530-822-7345

OLIVEHURST VFW POST 4095

BINGO 6 pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

4965 Powerline Rd, Olivehurst. Info: 530-777-9057

Hilltop Gang Breakfast, 2nd Sunday of the Month at Brownsville Community Center downstairs on Ponderosa Way. Complete breakfast includes: Coffee, orange juice and peaches. Choice of ham or sausage. Choice of pancakes, french toast or biscuits and gravy. Adults \$8, Children under 12 \$4, 3 & under Free. PLEASE NOTE: Breakfast is the third Sunday in June because of Father's Day.

THE NEW MARKETPLACE

New Location Indoors
Hallwood Women's Club • 2629 Hwy 20 in Hallwood • **Saturdays • 10 am- 2 pm** We have found an inside venue to do business in and are offering breakfast items & meal deals. *Roxanne's Yummy Treats, Gypsy Produce, Calolea Olive Oil, Farmboy BBQ Sauce as well as Dirk's Honey local from Hallwood. Homemade soaps, jewelry, crafts, baked goods and much more even Scentsy! Come join us in a nice warm indoor space for the rainy season. See you soon and come hungry!*
Contact Stacey to be a vendor 530-218-2685

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sutter County Community Action Agency board meeting Thursday, April 20 at 4:00 p.m. at Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation, 950 Tharp Road, Ste. 1303, Yuba City. Contact Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation at 530-751-8555 or ysedc@ysedc.org for any questions.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Erle Road Self Storage 5600 Lindhurst Ave, Marysville, CA 95901 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, known as the "California Self Service Storage Facilities Act", Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM**, on the premises where said property has been in storage at Erle Road Self Storage 5600 Lindhurst Ave. Marysville, CA 95901, telephone 530-634-9781. Property to be sold as follows: household goods, personal items, furniture, etc. belonging to the following:

Name
Jessica E. Steele
Johnny Sallaberry
Frances A. Mays
Carla Maria Trinidad Jara
Kamrin S. Robinson
Savannah Hernandez
Margaret Johnson
Marquez Froylan Fernando
Douglas Talbot
Philip Inthavong (2 units)
Molly J. Small

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in CASH only. All purchased items sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. Auctioneer Joan Hilbers, Bond# W150153447 (4/7/23 & 4/14/23)

Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason



Professor Caroline Winterer, photo courtesy AHP

**American Heritage
Special Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - American Heritage Partners, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Nevada, is proud to sponsor a luncheon featuring Professor Caroline Winterer, Chair of the History Department at

Stanford University, who will speak about her book “American Enlightenment: Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason”. In her book, Professor Winterer provides a thought-provoking account of how Americans in the 18th Century came to be “enlightened” - not as the

European Enlightenment envisioned it, but in our own American way, with a powerful emphasis on the “pursuit of happiness” - a concept literally written into our Declaration of Independence. What did that mean to Americans? Why did we fight a war against the greatest army in the world to gain it? How did our first settlers in the 17th and 18th centuries think about freedom? How is the “pursuit of happiness” relevant to today’s American experience? Professor Winterer will offer her unique perspectives on these critical questions.

This event is co-sponsored by The Sons of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Society, the Jamestown Society, and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, among others. The luncheon is being held at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento on April 22, starting at 11 am. The three-course plated lunch is priced at \$45 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit americanheritagepartners.org. ★

Important, Costly Lessons for California Taxpayers from the COVID Pandemic



**Commentary
by Jon Coupal**

As it did with citizens throughout America, the pandemic caused massive disruption to the lives of virtually every Californian.

Tens of thousands lost their lives, many now have long-term health problems, and countless others lost their jobs or businesses. Moreover, the disastrous handling of the pandemic for school-aged children will likely leave a scar on an entire generation that may never heal.

More unique to California, however, is the extent of government waste associated with the pandemic. Outright fraud, mismanagement, opportunistic consultants, ineffective media campaigns, and simple incompetence put California way ahead of all other states in felony-level stupidity with the spending of taxpayer dollars.

Because this is a column, not a book, we can only review a few of the most egregious examples.

Of course, the big Kahuna is the jaw-dropping amount of fraud in the Employment Development Department

(EDD). Originally thought to be “only” \$11 billion in “improper” payments, we now know that the fraud exceeded \$31 billion. To put that in perspective, that is 10% of the entire budget for the state of California. More insulting is where the money went. Transnational organized criminal groups from China and Africa have made off with billions of dollars, with who knows how much of it used for child trafficking, drugs, and terrorism.

A close second, the waste and incompetence of California’s public education establishment probably engendered more anger, especially among parents, than even the EDD debacle. Taxpayers were obligated to continue paying their full taxes as though our public schools were fully open with students attending in person. The public employee unions were running the show during the pandemic, and that was bad news for both taxpayers and students.

According to a report last July, California school districts had spent \$40 billion in COVID-related funds, but very little went to addressing learning loss. That may be due in part to the failure of the federal government to specify with more particularity how the money should be spent. According to EdSource, “Most districts appear to have listed most of the money they spent in [an] all-but-the-kitchen-sink category, which could include raises and bonuses to retain staff.” Finally,

there remain billions more in unspent funds at the same time public school enrollment has plummeted in the state.

Not all of the waste was the result of fraud or negligence but rather a simple miscalculation of the severity of the pandemic.

One example of COVID spending “overkill,” was the conversion of Sacramento’s professional basketball facility, then called Sleep Train Arena, into a COVID hospital in April 2020. According to the L.A. Times, the conversion cost millions of dollars and yet only nine patients were treated there.

Far less justifiable than an arguably good-faith response by sending a massive hospital ship to L.A. “just in case,” was Gov. Gavin Newsom’s decision to spend almost \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to purchase masks from a sketchy Chinese company known for building electric cars. Two years after the fact, there remain many unanswered questions.

Finally, California had a golden opportunity to use some of the billions in federal COVID relief to pay down its debt to the federal Unemployment Insurance Fund. That is precisely what virtually all other states did. But California’s failure means much higher costs to the state’s business community.

Taxpayers would like to hope that government agencies learned much from the pandemic. So far, there’s no indication of it.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. ★

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Local Writers Wanted

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.



Call us today at 916-773-1111

DWR Announces Interagency Drought Task Force Members, Planning Resources

DWR News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With swings between extreme weather patterns becoming more intense, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proactively collaborating with local communities and interagency partners to strengthen drought resilience and better prepare for future dry conditions.

In accordance with Senate Bill 552 of 2021, DWR has released a suite of resources to assist counties in planning for future water shortage events. It has also launched a 26-member interagency drought task force that will help address drought planning and emergency response.

“The recent storms have provided a huge improvement to the state’s surface water supplies. But our state’s ground-water basins are still recovering, and if these shifts between extreme weather patterns have taught us anything, it’s to be prepared for an eventual return to dry conditions,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “We’re prioritizing collaboration among local county governments and diverse water users to help empower communities with the tools and resources they need to plan for future drought events and response.”

The new interagency drought task force, formally known as the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners (DRIP) Collaborative, includes members representing all water users from local governments, community-based organizations, Tribes, nonprofit technical assistance providers, the general public, agriculture, environmental representatives, public water systems, small water suppliers or urban water agencies, and experts in land use planning, water resilience, or water infrastructure. A full list of the selected members is available on

DWR’s DRIP Collaborative webpage.

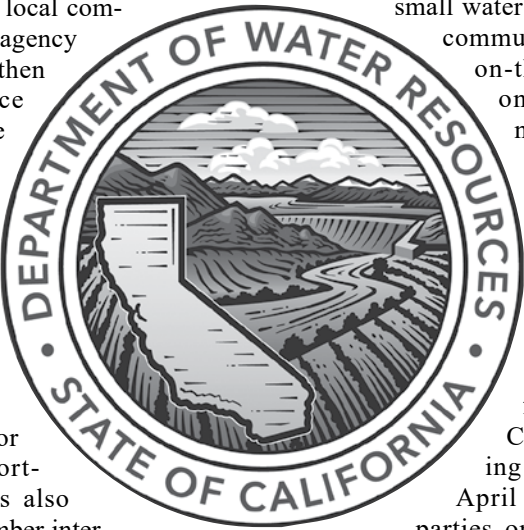
The selected members will lead the DRIP Collaborative in discussions to address drought-related issues and solutions including current and projected drought conditions, potential impacts in

small water supplier and rural communities, challenges on-the-ground based on water community expertise, and align state programs, funding, and strategies to anticipate and proactively address climate-driven impacts. The first DRIP Collaborative meeting is scheduled for April 6 and interested parties or members of the public can stay up to date with the latest DRIP Collaborative announcements and meetings through DWR’s email subscription list.

Additional resources include tools, direct assistance, and long-term support to help counties throughout the planning process. Counties can now access a County Drought Resilience Planning Guidebook, updated Drought and Water Shortage Risk Tool, and a portal from DWR to foster learning. These materials were created using feedback gathered by counties and small water suppliers over the past year through workshops led by DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board.

For counties that require additional assistance, DWR is offering direct financial or technical support for planning activities. Interested counties can choose to receive up to \$125,000 in reimbursement funds for eligible planning expenses or solicit direct technical experience when preparing their plans. All counties are eligible to apply for one form of assistance and can apply now on DWR’s County Drought Resilience Planning webpage.

For more information about SB 552 and the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners Collaborative, visit DWR’s SB 552 webpage. ★



It’s Not Too Late to Quit the Vape

Sapphire Marketing Group

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - Sixth through eighth grade students at Live Oak Middle School have spent the past twelve weeks learning about marketing and public relations, all while planning a student-driven campaign to curb vaping. Eighteen students were given an opportunity to take the 12-week elective course led by Sapphire Marketing Group’s CEO Kary Hauck through funding offered by the Live Oak Unified School District and the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools.

During the twelve-week program, students learn how to build a website, write a press release, lead a Focus Group, create designs, maintain brand integrity, identify the target audience, digital and social marketing, placing media buys, and more. “Many of the skills these students learn provide immense value as they enter high school, move on to pursue higher education and get started in their chosen career path,” said Sapphire Group’s Kary Hauck who led the 12-week course.

What makes the program unique is that the students make every decision regarding media buys, design, messaging and more. “I provide them with information, pricing, analytics and more and they choose how to spend their marketing budget,” said Hauck. The middle school students participating

in the course chose to purchase a billboard in Live Oak along state route 99 at Archer, produce posters for school sites, activate a website they helped design and film a video. Outfront Media, the company that leased the billboard space for the campaign, liked the idea so much they provided the students with 100,000 digital impressions (online ads) that will target people who pass the billboard, visit, or live within a 5-mile radius of the billboard, free of charge.

“LOMS students have taken a proactive approach to address the national youth issue of vaping,” said Parm Virk, Principal at Live Oak Middle School. “Sapphire Marketing Group has provided our students a unique opportunity to learn about marketing and media to take their efforts beyond our school site and gain real world skills in the process,” said Virk.

On Tuesday, March 28th, a student-led focus group was held with peers of the participants to test the marketing they had developed. During the next month, students will provide a presentation to the Live Oak Unified School District Board of Education and the City of Live Oak.

The curriculum for the class was developed by Sapphire Marketing Group and is made available to school districts throughout the Yuba-Sutter region. ★



OH NO!

Is that really happening?

Read the public notices in our newspaper or on our website to learn more about:

- Government meetings, bids & contracts
- Foreclosures
- Unclaimed property
- School Board issues
- Elections/Polling places, initiative petitions
- Tax assessments/proposals

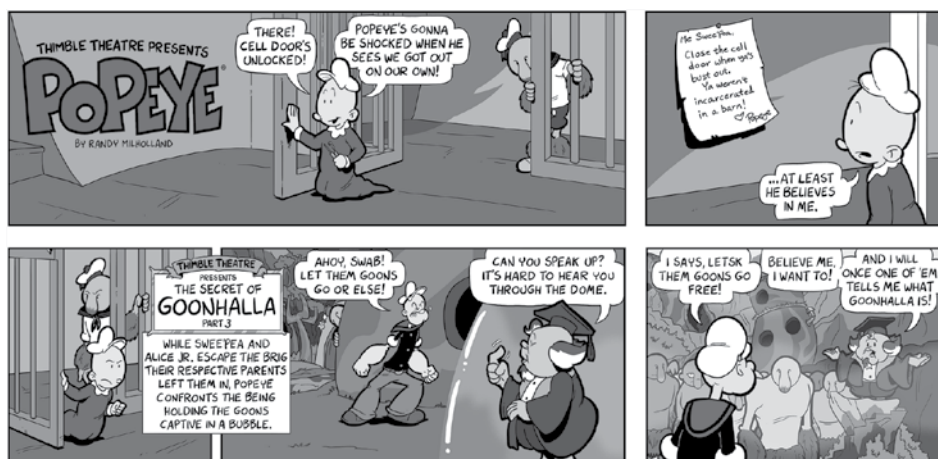


COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

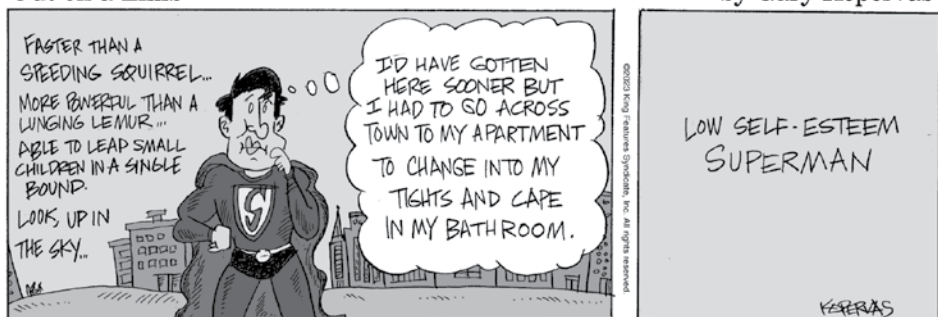
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



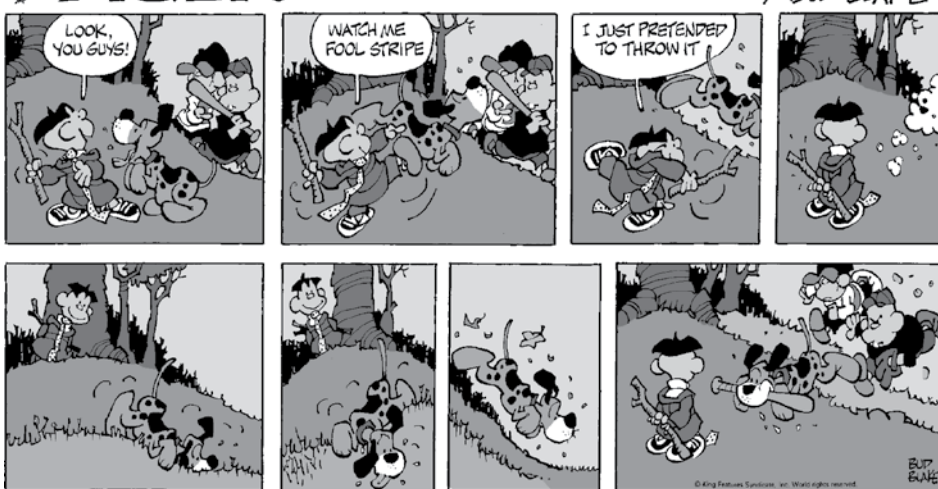
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

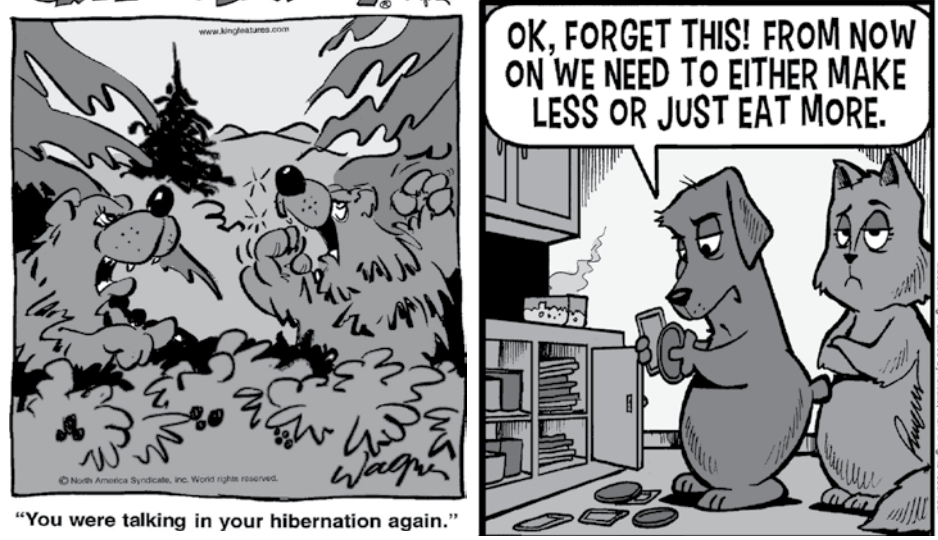
by BUD BLAKE



GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



THE NEW MARKETPLACE

New Location Indoors • Hallwood Women's Club • 2629 Hwy 20 in Hallwood • **Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm** • We have found an inside venue to do business in and are offering break-fast items & meal deals. **Roxanne's Yummy Treats, Gypsy Produce, Calolea Olive Oil, Farmboy BBQ Sauce as well as Dirk's Honey local from Hallwood. Homemade soaps, jewelry, crafts, baked goods and much more even Scentsy! Come join us in a nice warm indoor space for the rainy season. See you soon and come hungry!**



Contact Stacey to be a vendor
530-218-2685

FIRE INSURANCE

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Interviews are at 8:15 a.m. each morning unless noted

April 14 / Robert Summa, Appeal Democrat
April 17 / Steve Kreoger, Blue Zone Project
April 18 / Krystal Martin, Yuba River Endowment
April 19 / Sheriff Anderson, Yuba County
April 20 / Dave Shaw, Tax Time
April 21 Dan Flores, Econ Development
April 24 / Sue Moyers, Let's Talk History



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Stop Sexualizing Our Children in School
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Did a Mysterious Stagecoach Robber Once Live in Marysville?

By John J. Raspanti

The stranger appeared like a ghost in the middle of the road, wearing a long, white, loose-fitting jacket with rags covering his shoes. A flour bag covered his face, with two holes for eyes. A black derby sat on his head, cocked at a slight angle.

His sudden appearance shocked the stagecoach driver. He stopped his coach.

The robber crouched down and pointed a double-barrel shotgun at the driver. Politely, he ordered the stage driver, “Please throw down the box.”

The box with the loot sat near the driver. As he reached for it, he saw the robber tilt his head and shout, “If he makes a move, give him a solid volley, boys.”

The stagecoach driver gazed into the surrounding brush and spotted several rifle barrels pointing in his direction. With no weapon, and concern for his passengers, he did as he was told.

One passenger, unnerved by the robbery, tossed her purse in the direction of the robber.

The ghost-like man picked it up and said, “No, Ma’am. I don’t want your money. Only the box and mail.”

Figuring there wasn’t anything else he could do, the driver led the coach forward a few hundred feet. After a spell, he stopped and returned to the scene of the crime, conscious of the guns pointed in his direction, convinced he’d be shot.

Instead, silence. He slowly moved closer, peering into the brush. What he saw shocked him. No desperados waited for his arrival. Or guns. Only sticks made to look like gun barrels. The masked bandit was gone as well.

All that was left was the express box and mail sack both empty.

The date was July 26, 1875 – the location Funk Hill near Copperopolis, CA.

Who was that masked man?

Not the Lone Ranger. It was long before his time.

Nobody knew for a while, but his behavior would create an enduring legend. This criminal was not the rowdy kind. He was well-read, didn’t curse, and preferred action stories and poetry.

He stole (fittingly) his criminal name from the novel, *The Case of Summerfield* by William Henry Rhodes, which was serialized in Northern California newspapers in the 1870s.

The hero of the novel robbed Wells Fargo stagecoaches.

His name?

Black Bart.

The man under the sack and derby perplexed the Wells Fargo agents. He likely enjoyed confusing them. Tracking him, a norm back then, was not feasible.

All the bad guys (and good ones) owned a horse.

Not Bart. He feared them.

He escaped on foot – his ability to travel long distances impressed and infuriated his pursuers.

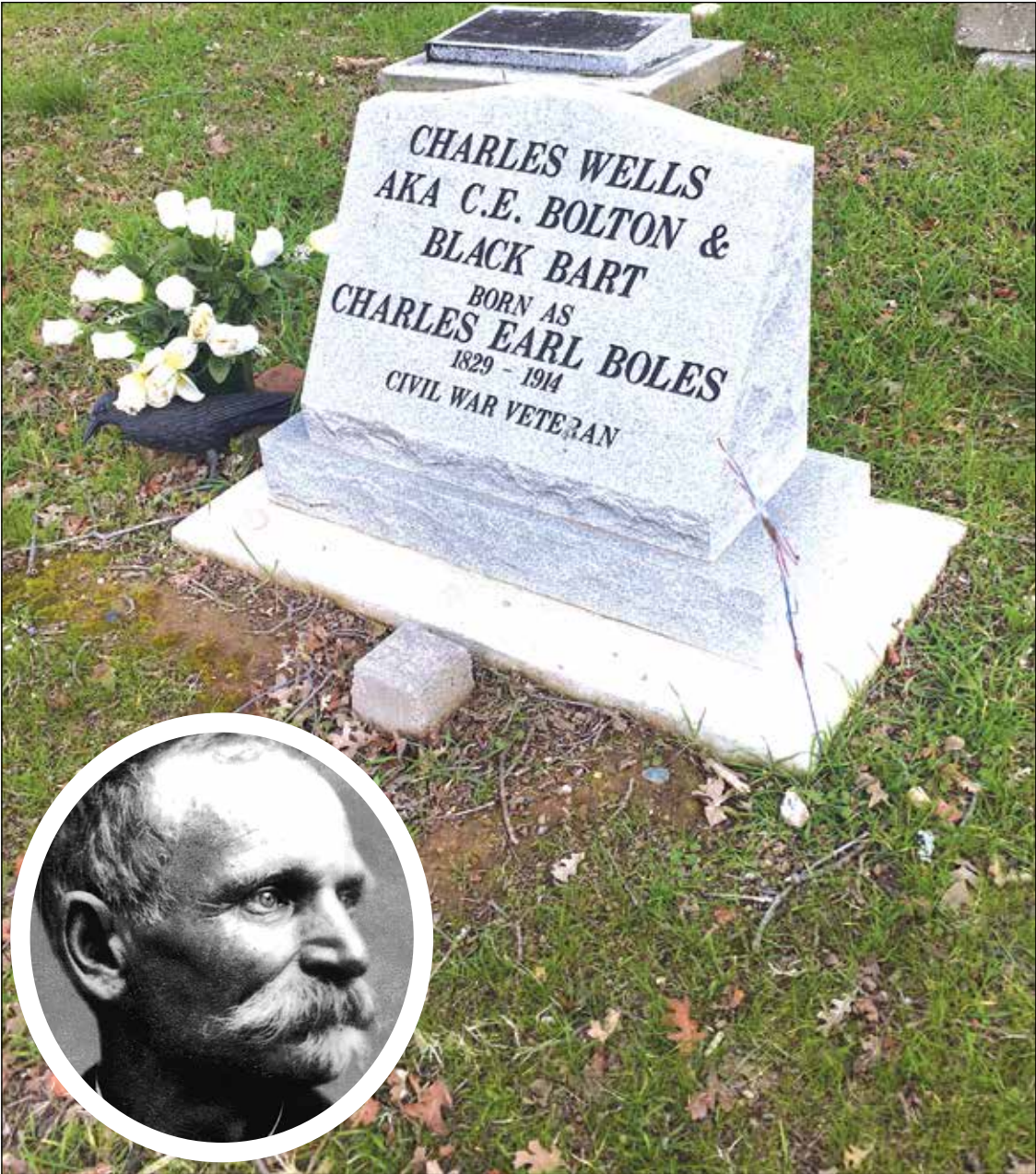
Instead of “Who are these guys?” the question became, “Who IS this guy?”

Bart, a Brit, was born Charles E. Boles in 1831. Two years later, his family immigrated to America. Boles grew up on a farm in Jefferson County, New York.

Gold fever struck Boles and a couple of his brothers in 1849. They traveled to California and prospected along the American River near Sacramento, seeking their fortune. The brothers were hopeful, but found no gold. Boles went home – and married a few years later. He’d try the regular life, laying down roots in Decatur, Illinois.

This life lasted for eight years. But Boles needed adventure and enlisted in the Civil War in 1862. His company participated in battles in Arkansas, Atlanta, Vicksburg and Chattanooga. Wounded severely in 1864, Boles mustered out of the army with the rank of first sergeant. No one questioned his commitment or bravery.

Boles returned to his family but left two years later. Gold



Is this cemetery in Marysville the final resting place of the infamous Black Bart? Local historians believe so. Photo courtesy of John Raspanti Inset: Charles Boles aka “Black Bart.” Photo from Wikipedia



Robber’s Rock circa 1870. The rock rumored to be used as a hiding place by Black Bart. Most historians disagree. Photo courtesy of John Raspanti



The cemetery some say is the resting place of Black Bart. Photo courtesy of John Raspanti

fever was back, he traveled to Montana to seek his riches in mining. He wrote letters to his wife, describing pockets of success. One letter described an incident with some agents from Wells Fargo. He wrote, “I’m going to take steps.” He said he’d be coming home soon.

He never did. No new letters arrived. His wife feared he had been ambushed and killed.

Not so. Boles resurfaced in San Francisco, now calling himself Charles Bolton. His occupation was a mining engineer. People liked him – describing him as quiet and dignified, but the incident with Wells Fargo burned inside him. He would wait for the right time.

That time was July 25, 1875. Boles, AKA Bolton, AKA Black Bart, netted 160 dollars.

Black Bart would engage in 27 robberies over the next eight years, including a stage from North San Juan to Marysville, CA.

After his fourth robbery, he left behind a note that read:

I’ve labored long and hard for bread, for honor, and from riches. But on my corns too long you’ve tread, you fine-haired sons of bitches.

Black Bart, 1877

A second poem was left a year later:

Here I lay me down to sleep. To await the coming morrow, perhaps success, perhaps defeat. And everlasting sorrow. Let come what will, I’ll try it on. My condition can’t be worse. And if there’s money in that box ‘Tis munny in my purse.

Life was smooth for the poet-robber until 1883. He lived well in the city, sticking to his gentlemanly disguise. Nobody doubted the sturdy, well-dressed man with a thick white mustache.

His last robbery occurred at the site of his first. One wonders if Bart considered the return as something of an arc. Or maybe an end. Escaping as always on foot, Bart was wounded for the first time and dropped a handkerchief that detectives used to track him down in San Francisco.

For reasons only they knew, Wells Fargo charged Bart with only his last robbery. They sentenced him to six years at San Quentin penitentiary, but served four, being released early for good behavior. Bart told the reporters who gathered at San Quentin on the day of his release that he was done with crime.

But was he?

Wells Fargo didn’t buy it. They dogged Bart’s every step until he seemed to vanish in 1888. A rumor persists that Wells Fargo paid Bart a pension of \$200 dollars a month to NOT rob their stagecoaches. One agent was sure he escaped to Japan.

Some say he lived, died, and is buried in Knights Landing Cemetery in Knights Landing, CA. An apparition, dressed in a long coat and derby hat has been seen wandering the grounds at night.

A body rests under a headstone in Marysville Cemetery with the name, Charles Wells, AKA C.E. Bolton @ Black Bart. Local historians are convinced Bart lived in Marysville and worked at a downtown pharmacy.

When he died in 1914, the sum of \$24,000 was attached to his name. Problem was, nobody knew where it was, so it, like the identity of Black Bart, will live in infamy.

I like this one. The fact that Bolton, if he was Black Bart, adopted the name of Wells during the last years of his life signifies his last act of contempt and defiance.

Sticking it to the man, in a classy way, that was Black Bart.

Special thanks goes out to Victoria Tudor and Sue of the Yuba County Historical Commission for proving information.

Books: Black Bart: Elusive Highwayman-Poet, by Laika Dajani ★

Indians Bats’ Hack against Mavericks, Controls Pirates Ship in Sweep

Story and photos
by Steven Bryla

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Marysville Indians baseball team extended their winning streak after a rough start to their season as they run-ruled the Mesa Verde Mavericks 15-1 in a non-league matchup on Monday, April 3.

Marysville jumped out to a 9-0 lead after the end of the first as Mesa Verde pitchers struggled to get the ball in the strike zone. The Indians showed their patience at the plate as they drew eight walks in the inning.

Marysville (5-7) senior pitcher Jack Howsley threw a four-inning bullpen as he mowed down the Mavericks lineup, striking out seven and surrendering three hits.

Howsley went two-for-four in the game with two singles and two runs batted in (RBI). Howsley told the Dispatch that pitching on the mound gave him confidence moving forward as he was consistently pounding the strike zone through his outing.

“It helped bring down the Earned Run Average (ERA) and added a few strikeouts for the year,” Howsley said.

Indians head coach Bill Rollins expressed that his players are seeing the ball well at the plate and taking advantage of it.

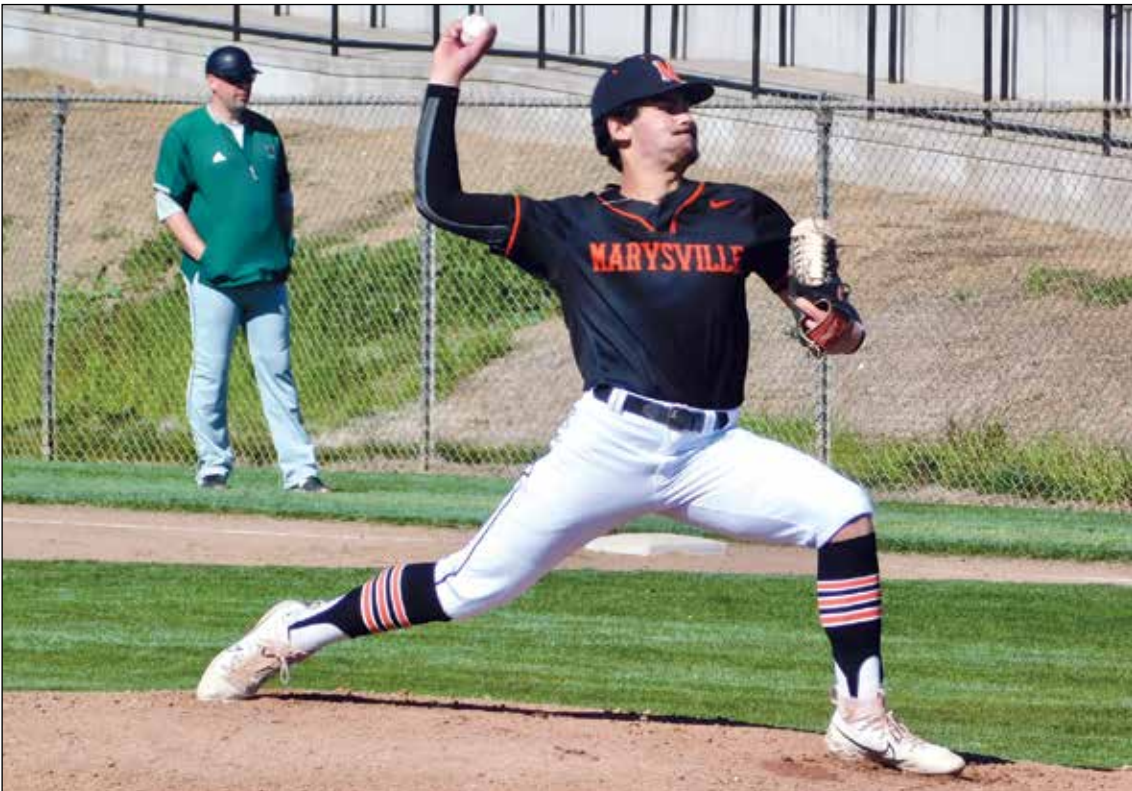
“We’re putting the bat on the ball and it’s working out for us currently,” Rollins said.

The win over Mesa Verde was the third consecutive win for Marysville and the third game in a row the Indians put 10 runs on the board.

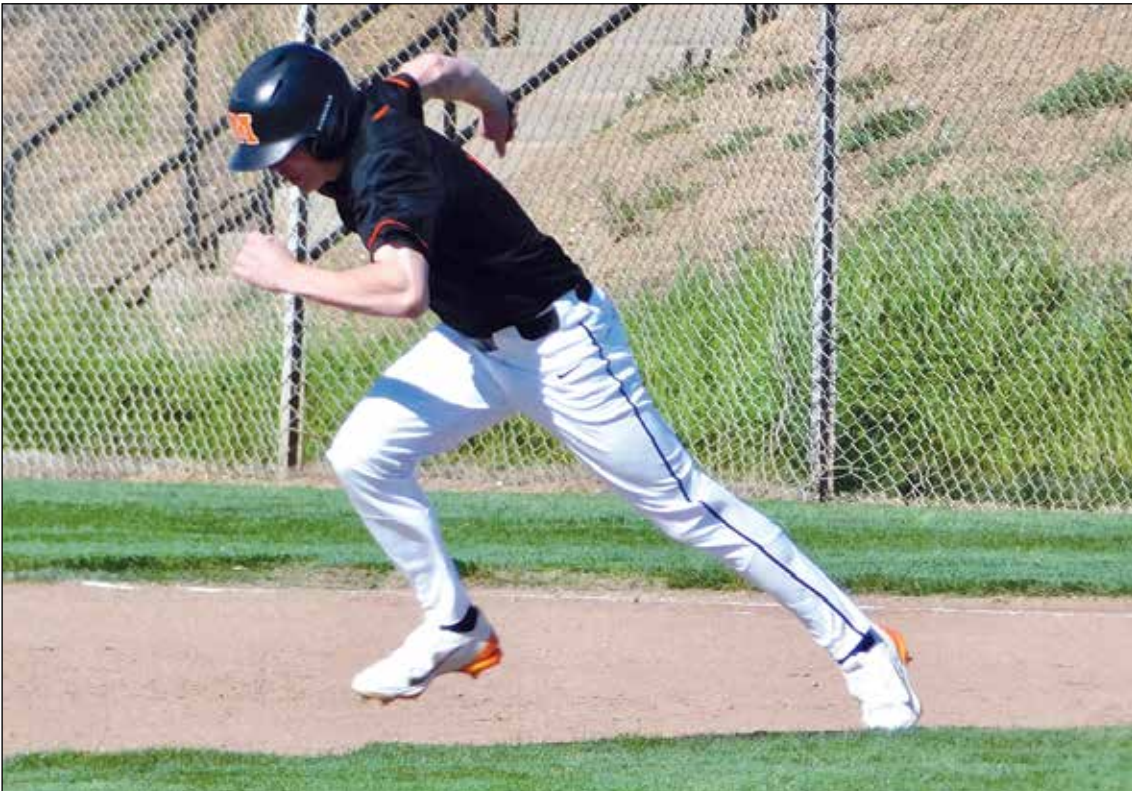
With Marysville having a wide margin late in the game, Rollins was able to let senior outfielder Kayden Ellyson get an inning on the mound.

When watching an Indians game, you will hear a million nicknames for Ellyson as the Marysville bench cheers him on in the batter’s box.

Ellyson and Howsley both laughed postgame with the



Marysville senior pitcher/infielder Jack Howsley throws a pitch in the Indians 15-1 non-league victory over Mesa Verde on Monday, April 3.



Marysville senior outfielder Kayden Ellyson steals second base in the Indians 15-1 non-league victory over Mesa Verde on Monday, April 3.

pitched since little league,” Ellyson said. Rollins told the entire team Ellyson was going to be on the bump in the middle of the fourth inning and you heard a big roar of happiness from the entire Indians huddle.

Ellyson retired the side in the top of the fifth and even got two strikeouts.

Marysville continued its Pioneer Valley League schedule the following day as they played Wheatland in the first of a two game series.

Ellyson said that the Indians know they got off to a bad start in league, but the small sample size of recent winnings added confidence into playing the Pirates over the next few days.

The Indians evened up their PVL and overall record at (7-7, 3-3 PVL) as they swept Wheatland 11-7 on April 4, and 11-3 on April 6.

Marysville hit their first home runs of the season with Howsley hitting one and senior pitcher/shortstop Steven Cherry hitting two in the first matchup. Rollins said that their bats are clicking and have a great rhythm currently.

Cherry, who has been limited on pitching throughout the year due to an injury, has been fully cleared to pitch from now on.

The Indians have scored an astronomical 61 runs in their last 5 contests and hit with a batting average of .417 as a team, compared to their early struggles when they were hitting under .100 as a team in the first third of the season.

Marysville didn’t have any PVL league games this week as they traveled and played in a post-Easter tournament in Atascadero.

Rollins hopes to see the consistency of putting the bat on the ball throughout the tournament.

The Indians will start PVL play again on April 18 as they travel to Twelve Bridges of Lincoln, who are in their first year of varsity competition.

★



Brownie's BAIT BOX

Fishing rating scale: (b) Excellent • (a) Good • (g) Poor (bad)

LOCAL FISHING

Englebright Reservoir; launched at the Marina, and found the creek flowing fast with mud. We motored into the main body and found turbid water with very little visibility. On to the South Fork inlet, where we found the S.F. pumping lots of mud into the lake. The North Fork proved clear, so we trolled 1.5-1.7 MPH slow. Caught 10 rainbows of 13”-15”. Our best bait was Kastmasters. (b).

Weather permitting we stayed at one of the boat-in campsites. Launched at Feather River, Boyd’s Pump (really crowded) Fished below Star Bend and hooked lots of stripers, 17 inch shakers. Drifting...Try: Live Jumbo Minnows. (a)

SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA

Oster Pt. South Bay. Crowded with 75 plus boats. Anglers landing two halibuts per rod, of 7-8 lbs. Try: Tray Baits. (b) Lower Delta/Pittsburg; sturgeon biting. Caught and released two slots and two oversized with PIT tags. Try: Eel or Salmon Roe. (b)

COASTAL WATERS

Central Coast; surf anglers score on surf perch. Try: Jerk Baits. (b)

LAKES RESERVOIRS AND RIVERS

Clear Lake; Team Bass Derby. March 25, 26th. Winner. Two day, ten fish weight. 59.85 lbs. Davis Lake Ice fishing; Mallard Cove ice is 12” thick. Rainbows of 16-18 inches. Try: Power Bait and Worms. (b) Natomas Lake/Sacramento; yields 8.7 lb. King Salmon. Try: Blue Fox spinner. (a) Folsom Lake; large logs and debris floating and subsurface. North Fork visibility of 5 ft. Caught one skinny 18” rainbow. Try: Apex (g) Lake Oroville Wild West Bass Trail Pro-Am Derby. Winner: three day total. 40.36 lbs. Try: 3 inch Roboworm/Baby Bass w/ 1/16th tungsten weight.

Shasta Lake; find the shad bait balls, for trout. Slow troll...Try: South Bend Super Dupers #503, Silver, Brass, Copper colors. (b) **Fisherman’s Comment:** “Brownie, why am I losing so many trout?” Signed: Sad Sack. Dear Sad Sack; the fish are not



South Bend Super Dupers #503

engulfing your bait, cold water slows their metabolism, therefore, they tend to be nipping/sucking at your bait.

RIVERS

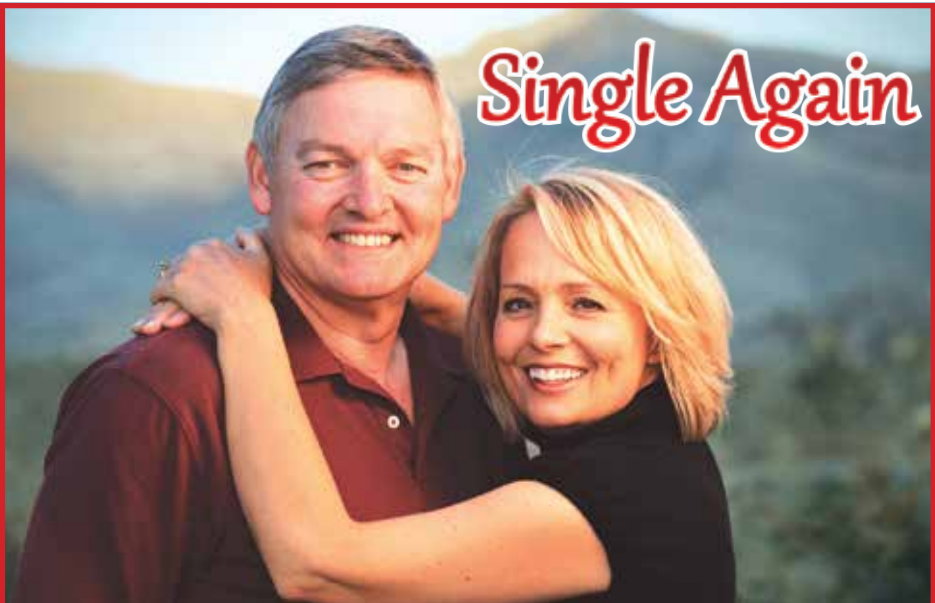
Sac. River system; Knights Landing to Colusa. Wait until the water clears up for sturgeon fishing. Deep Water Channel, limits of legal stripers. Trolling...Try: Ghost Shrimp or Pile Worms. (b).



Blood Midges #20-22

Note; Tisdale boat ramp is open. Truckee River; look for good weather. Fish the seams off big boulders, tail waters, and bubble lines where fast water meets slow water. Below the confluence of the Boca Reservoir. Try: Blood Midges #20-22. (a)

Crying out loud.” **BROWNIE**



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