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FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 2, 2024 • VOL. 144 NO. 5

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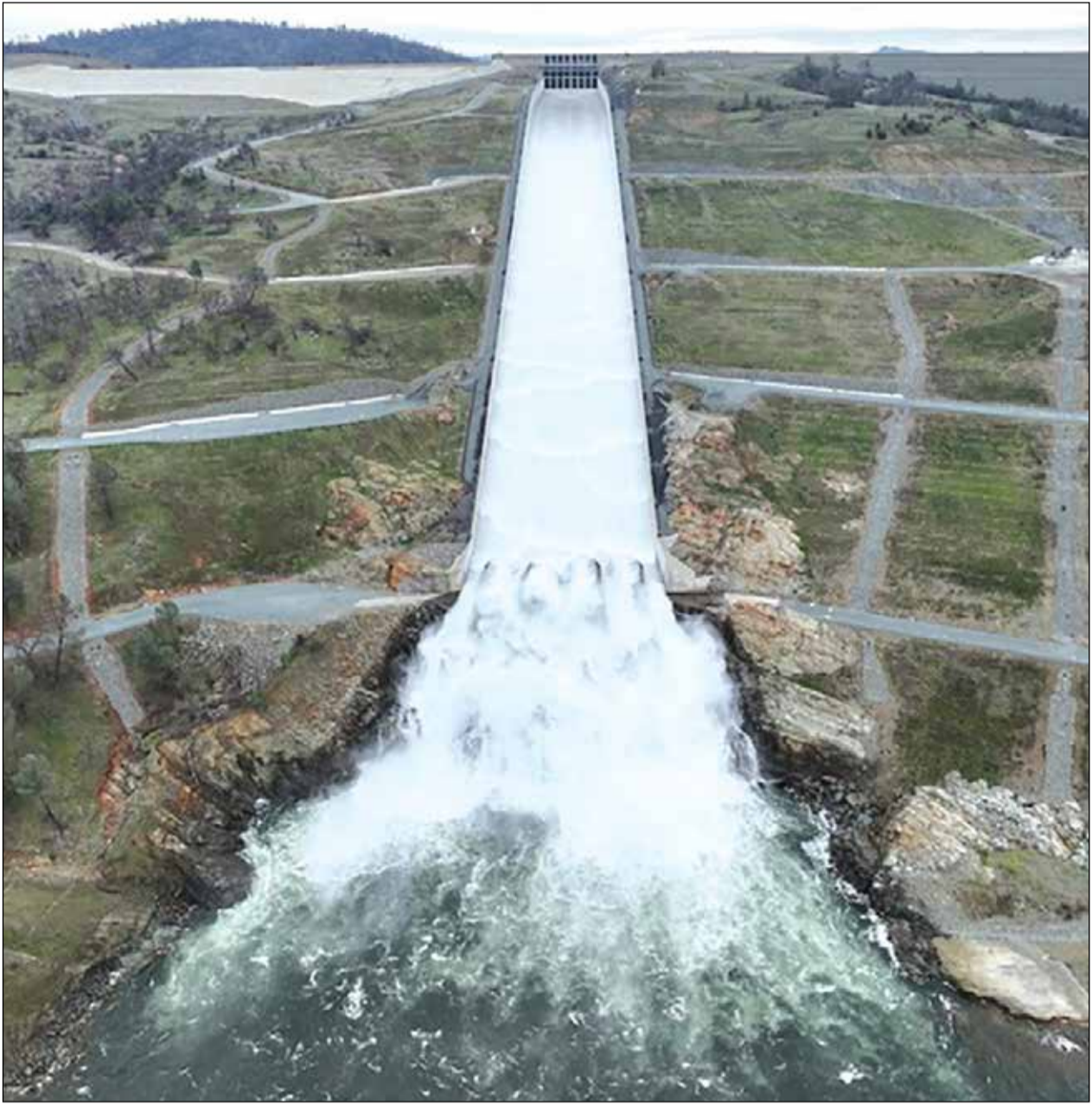


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Oroville Spillway Opens Up



A drone provides an aerial view of the California Department of Water Resources first 2024 water release from the Lake Oroville flood control gates down the 3,000-foot main spillway in Butte County, California. Photo courtesy of DWR

California Department of Water Resources News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) began releasing water from Oroville Dam's main spillway at 8 a.m. on January 31. Releases to the Feather River ensure storage space remains in Lake Oroville

for flood control protection. DWR coordinates releases closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other water operators and adjusts releases as needed to account for continuing rain and snowmelt. Digital photos and b-roll from today's spillway release are available on Pixel and Box.

The information below reflects current reservoir level estimates. Forecasts can change quickly and may affect the estimates provided.
-Current Oroville Reservoir Level: 842 feet elevation
-Current Storage Capacity: 76 percent

Continued on page 3

When Will Sheriff's Contract be Signed, or Dead Dogs Picked up off the Streets?

By Sharon Pearce

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The Live Oak City Council spent almost two hours of its January meeting on the 17th shaking out stumbling blocks to approving the Sutter Co. Sheriff's Department contract. It came down to whether dissatisfied members of the Council recognized that the sheriff's office was not going to lower its fee for service from \$880,000, which cost has only been increasing due to delays in signing off. They were reminded the answers to their questions were built into the contract.

Council began with Mayor Ashley Hernandez, attending by Zoom, informing she had been in discussion with a mayor in Willow as to the possibility of Live Oak partnering with it to create a joint police department. Councilmember Jeramy Chapdelaine commented he had been following the timeline of Willow's police contract discussions and said their costs would run to \$15 million and they know they can't afford it. That is higher than what Live Oak could afford, said Chapdelaine, commenting on insurance costs, CalPERS, unfunded liabilities, and other costs. Comm. Santana said, "We own 55 properties free and clear and we could sell those properties and there would be no costs to residents."

A Public Speaker who identified as 94454 said, "Every agency has its own needs. You must realize agencies have established infrastructures. If you really think you can start a police dept. from ground up in six months, you must really do due diligence to see what you need. It will take you four to six months to hire one employee, 10 months for four. You are not going to hire officers right and left; many larger cities can afford to pay them more. If you want to do this, you should look into all the costs; don't just look at staff costs; it is infrastructure. You are not going to have a police dept. starting from ground up in two years."

"I think we need to focus on us, our situation, the contract," said Chapdelaine. "Even in our agenda tonight, we should be focusing on our contract, then do a workshop as to alternatives. I have compared to six

Continued on page 3

Colusa Farm Show to Get Underway

Story and photos by Susan Meeker

COLUSA, CA (MPG) - Colusa is gearing up for the "granddaddy" of farm shows.

All eyes will be on the Colusa County Fairgrounds next week, when the three-day farm trade show gets underway on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The Colusa Farm Show runs through Thursday.

The exposition, hosted each year by the 44th District Agricultural Association, is a one-stop showcase of the latest innovations in farming technology, equipment, and services.

Equipment will be moving onto the fairgrounds all weekend.

About 300 exhibitors are expected at the exposition, which showcases the latest in agriculture equipment used in planting, spraying, and harvesting many kinds of crops, along with



The Colusa Farm Show will get underway on Tuesday to showcase the latest innovations in farming technology, equipment, and services over its three-day run at the Colusa County Fairgrounds, 1303 10th St., Colusa.

lending institutions and those who sell fuel, motor vehicles, farm insurance, tools, and more, fair officials said.

Farm Show sponsors this year include Arnold's, Colusa Casino & Resort, Nelson Mfg., G.N. Henley,

and Tuff Boy.

First billed as the Sacramento Valley Orchard Machinery Fair in 1965, the three-day Colusa Farm Show has been the model for all other farm shows in the western United States. The World Ag Expo, the

largest farm trade show in the world, which is held the following week in Tulare, was established one year after Colusa and was based on Colusa's model for an agriculture exposition.

The Colusa Farm Show

Continued on page 3

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

for your entertainment - to the entertainment coming right into your house. The actors' guild strike earlier this year reflects the tension created in an industry disrupted by technological and cultural changes. Streaming to your house on-demand services has completely upended Hollywood's business model. Actors fear being replaced by computer-generated actors, and the movie studios have to compete with giant technology firms.

The next significant disruption is a combination of entertainment and gambling. The NFL had more viewers than any other entertainment source in America this year; they broke records for viewership on multiple occasions, and Football is making more money than ever before. Two minor-league football leagues are merging into a new spring football league. Within a year or two, we will be like the Europeans and have soccer that goes on year-round. As you watch the upcoming football bowl extravaganza, count

how many advertisements there are for sports betting booking, sports betting, gambling, and fantasy football gambling. Gambling on every aspect of sports is the next great industry disruption. Just like people used to go to the movies to see a show, industry-wide disruption is going to happen to casinos and gambling. Starting with sports, people will be able to gamble as much as they want to (or can) on their phones, from their Internet-connected television in their home, and a desktop computer (if you're so old-fashioned, you have one of those). The legalization of gambling will transform college athletics, professional athletics, and the entertainment industry in the next five years. The ramifications of transferring billions of dollars from year-round enthusiastic sports fans to entertainment and technology corporations will play out in our society and culture as yet another thing is disrupted.

Josh F.W. Cook is an alumnus of Butte College; opinions expressed here are solely his.. ★

Butte County Fire Department Offers Sand and Sandbags

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In anticipation of this week's expected winter storm, the Butte County Fire Department is taking proactive measures to assist the community by providing free sand and sandbags to residents.

With the aim of safeguarding homes and properties from potential flooding, the Butte County Department of Public Works has established designated distribution points at the following Butte County Fire Stations for residents to access sand and sandbags:

Each of these locations will allow public access 24 hours a day for the duration of the storm. The availability of sand and sandbags is part of the Butte County Fire Department's ongoing commitment to community safety and emergency preparedness. We encourage residents to take advantage

of this resource as a precautionary measure, as sandbags can be an effective barrier against rising water levels.

Butte County Fire Chief Garrett Sjolund emphasizes the importance of residents being ready for the storm, saying, "Just like it's critical to establish defensive space before a wildfire comes, strategically placing sandbags can prepare your home to withstand the storm and minimize potential flood damage."

For up-to-date information on the availability of sand and sandbags, residents can visit the Butte County Public Works website: <https://www.butte-county.net/DocumentCenter/View/4301/Sandbag-Locations-List-PDF>.

The Butte County Fire Department encourages all residents to stay informed about weather updates and to follow any official instructions issued by local authorities in the event of severe weather conditions. ★

- Fire Station 25 Butte College – 3487 Pentz Road, Butte Valley
- Fire Station 27 Centerville – 13330 Centerville Road, Butte Creek Canyon
- Fire Station 33 Upper Ridge/Magalia Sheriff Substation – Lakeridge Court, Magalia
- Fire Station 38 Concow – 12960 Concow Road, Concow
- Fire Station 41 Nord – 13871 Highway 99, Chico
- Fire Station 55 Bangor – 7540 Oro Bangor Highway, Bangor
- Fire Station 64 Kelly Ridge – 22 Walnut Avenue, Oroville
- Fire Station 72 Palermo – 2290 Palermo Road, Palermo



CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department Approves \$6 Million in Grants

Butte County Fire Department News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Two years ago, the Butte County Fire Department applied for two large grants through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In December 2023, both Community Wildfire

Defense Grants were awarded to the department.

The first grant awarded \$4.9 million to provide a year-round workforce of three defensible space inspectors and one fire captain supervisor. In addition, the grant will fund one code enforcement officer and one administrative assistant with

the Butte County Development Services Department to manage and enforce Butte County's Defensible Space and Hazardous Vegetation Management requirements.

The second grant of \$1.5 million will purchase an excavator with a masticating head, and a truck and trailer to transport it.

This heavy equipment will be used for vegetation management projects throughout Butte County, reducing wildfire risk by removing dangerous fire fuel and returning the landscape to its natural condition.

On January 23, the Butte County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve

implementation of the grant.

"We are grateful to our Board of Supervisors for their continued strong support of the fire department," says Butte County Fire Chief Garrett Sjolund. "These two grants are critical for providing the best fire protection possible for Butte County residents." ★

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Butte College SBDC In-Person Business Trainings

New Venture Series for New and Startup Businesses (Orland)
This 4-part training series provides essential information to individuals thinking about starting a business and new business owners (in business one year or less). Topics include: Legal Requirements, Market Analysis, Cost Analysis, Funding Your Business, and Overview of the Business Plan - bringing it all together. You will learn the legal requirements for starting your business, how to assess your market and plan for direction, how to obtain funding, types of funding available, calculate start-up costs, and best practice for completing a business plan.
Dates: Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2024 **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am
Location: 1366 Cortina Dr, Room 125, Orland **Cost:** Free

Financial Management Series for Existing Businesses (Oroville)
This 4-weeks series is designed to teach you how to utilize your financial statements to better manage and understand your business operations, cash flow, and profitability. Focus includes: interpreting and understanding your financial statements (Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet) hands-on exercise and case study; identifying cash flow cycle and how it impacts your business; learning how to calculate & use financial ratios to troubleshoot fiscal dangers, and analyzing trends to improve business performance; using financial tools to make good business decisions for effective spending & break-even analysis; knowing how to think critically when looking at pricing & costs; and developing forecasts and budgetary tools and techniques to improve profit.
Dates: Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2024 **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am
Location: 1566 Huntoon St, Oroville **Cost:** Free

Practical QuickBooks for New Users – 4 Weeks, 2hours per Week (Red Bluff)
Accurate bookkeeping is critical to the success of any business. This QuickBooks Series is for entrepreneurs and business owners in the beginning stage of bookkeeping (i.e., planning, have not yet purchased their system, or have purchased but not using). The trainer will guide you through the basics of accounting from identifying the best QuickBooks version for your business, to setting up your system, managing accounts, and using financial reports to manage your day-to-day activities. Series includes 4 focus areas:
Week 1 – March 7: Accounting Basics & Getting Started with QuickBooks
Week 2 – March 14: Setting up Items and Creating Forms
Week 3 – March 21: Accounts Receivable
Week 4 – March 28: Accounts Payable, Banking Reconciliations, and Reports
Dates: Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, & 28 2024 **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am
Location: 724 Main Street, Red Bluff **Cost:** \$50 per person for entire 4 weeks series

Branding Your Business (Orland)
If you are planning to grow your business, brand clarity is a must! Focusing on your customers and target audience are vital to the success of your branding. We will define the meaning of branding, discuss branding ideas and tips, the difference between branding and marketing, why branding is important to your business and customers, how to create your brand and a branding plan, and how to successfully measure the results.
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am
Location: 1366 Cortina Dr., Orland **Cost:** Free

To Register for Trainings CALL: (530) 895-9017
REGISTER HERE: <https://www.buttecollegesbdc.com/events/>

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SBDC programs are nondiscriminatory and available to individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least 72 hours in advance. Contact Sophie Konuwa, director, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico, CA 95928. KonuwaSo@butte.edu. (530) 895-9017

Oroville Spillway Opens Up

Continued from page 1

Total Releases to the Feather River: 12,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)

Total releases to the Feather River amount to 12,000 cfs with 650 cfs being routed down the low-flow channel through the City of Oroville. An additional 11,350 cfs is being released from the Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet, located 5 miles downstream from Oroville. Feather River recreation users are advised to remain alert as river flows are expected to be swift and cold and may change based on projected weather forecasts.

The Lake Oroville reservoir is the largest storage facility in the State Water Project, providing flood protection while supporting environmental and water delivery needs to 27 million Californians. In 2023, Oroville Dam's main spillway passed over 2,370,000 acre-feet of water, 67 percent of Lake Oroville's capacity, with flows as high as 36,000 cfs. The main spillway continues to perform well and operate as designed. DWR continues to monitor lake levels, weather forecasts, and mountain snow levels to optimize water storage while allowing for carry-over storage into next year. ★

When Will Sheriff's Contract be Signed, or Dead Dogs Picked up off the Streets?

Continued from page 1

other jurisdictions, and we are still lower spending per capita in comparison."

Commissioner Lakhvir Ghag was concerned that "this sheriff puts his information on Facebook and does not discuss it with the mayor or council first. The information they give us needs to be what a common person could understand... We need to think through what we want. There have been fireworks everywhere in the city; the 4th of July — it was crazy." Ghag said there was a need for camera technology and drones. "They can visualize through the cameras and site where the problems are."

Commissioner Santana added, "That's another reason for needing a breakdown of calls. We don't know what crimes are going on in our city and we need the report. Are we getting gang activities? Then we can work to obtain officers to fit our needs. We have a duty to look over all that before we make a decision to hand over \$880,000." City Manager Aaron Palmer agreed the numbers the county had provided on calls to Live Oak did not add up, and he had to check on that.

Mayor Hernandez emphasized the contract was not due until June. Chapdelaine

responded "...the county is also being pressed that they will have to end eating costs, and a state law says they can't... they may have to notify us they may have to cease services."

Commissioner Bob Woten requested it all be handled in a reasonable way but to not refuse to sign the contract for little things that are already built into the contract and can be worked on later.

Council moved on to Animal Services with Comm. Woten wanting to find out its schedule for coming to Live Oak and asking if it reports to Sutter County. Several commissioners stated that there were dead dogs all over the streets; in one case there was a dead deer on the side of the road for three months with an excuse given that it wasn't picked up because that was another jurisdiction.

Comm. Ghag reported on the Vector Control Board going over the properties it owns and is in discussion as to whether it should purchase insurance. A warning was given that an adjacent county elections office had received an envelope in the mail thought to contain fentanyl powder.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. ★

Colusa Farm Show to Get Underway



The exhibit buildings on the Colusa County Fairgrounds will be packed with the latest information, Feb. 6-8, for the annual running of the Colusa Farm Show.

Continued from page 1

was first established by a committee of about 30 people, including local farmers, wholesale merchants, retail merchants, manufacturers, and other individuals, who developed the premise for the show, which was largely focused on orchard-related equipment.

Within a few years, the show was opened to all other agriculture products and remains the only farm trade show in the west with free admission and free parking.

The Fairgrounds will welcome Farm Show visitors from 9 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday and from 9 AM to 3 PM on Thursday. Food from a variety of vendors will be available for purchase.

Many businesses will be handing out "bling" such as hats, pens, notebooks, and totes. Some will offer free opportunity drawings for products and services, while others will raise money for great causes.

Longtime Farm Show vendor Napa Auto Parts will be back at the Colusa Farm Show showcasing their products while helping the Colusa County Animal Shelter, a fundraising tradition they started at the 2023 show.

"Napa Auto Parts is proud to support the Friends of Colusa County Animal Shelter (FOCCAS) through its booth at

this year's Farm Show with the "Napa Bucket Promotion," said Frank Camilli. "Thanks to the generosity of 2023 Farm Show attendees, Napa raised over \$6,000, which enabled FOCCAS to make significant improvements to the exterior kennel area of the shelter."

Napa will be taking \$5 donations for a Napa bucket, Milwaukee tool raffle, and coupon for discounted merchandise at participating Napa stores in Colusa and surrounding counties.

"All proceeds will be donated to FOCCAS to benefit the animals of the Colusa County Animal Shelter," Camilli said.

Visitors can visit the Napa Auto Parts booth in the Main Exhibit Building of the Colusa County Fairgrounds.

"FOCCAS uses donations to make improvements to the shelter and improve the lives of shelter animals," said FOCCAS volunteer Pam DaGrossa. "FOCCAS regularly provides vaccines and medicines, medical assessment and treatment, and transport to rescue partners." Upcoming projects will focus on providing increased sanitation and shelter for animals.

The Colusa County Fairgrounds staff and fair board welcomes visitors to the Colusa Farm Show to join them daily at 9 am at the flagpole at the front entrance for the playing of the "National Anthem" and "So, God made a Farmer." ★

Gridley-Biggs Cemetery Update

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - After recent events of disrespect on Gridley-Biggs Cemetery grounds, including the reported use of alcohol and drugs during a memorial service, and vehicles driving over graves to exit the cemetery, caused an uproar on social media, the Cemetery Board held a public meeting to hear feedback from a highly concerned community.

Both board and cemetery staff expressed that an incident such as the one that occurred on January 12, 2024, are rare.

Those having services at the cemetery are provided a copy of the rules and regulations and sign a contract acknowledging their understanding of said rules. The Cemetery Board, comprised of Joe Hughes, Larry Evans, and Larry Hamman, directed Cemetery

Manager Angie Cote to add another section to the packet, expressly prohibiting any drugs or alcohol in the cemetery. This is already part of the ordinance, but the addition of another detailed section is hoped to reinforce the laws in guests minds.

They will also be adding signage at the cemetery gates, especially the entrance, prohibiting drugs and alcohol use. More signage stating the same will be spread throughout the cemetery.

As far as inconsiderate guests driving on the graves, the Cemetery already has signs posted prohibiting driving on the grass. The cemetery does have cameras that can identify the make, model, and license plates of vehicles that drive on graves or otherwise vandalize the sacred cemetery grounds. Those that vandalize the cemetery will be reported to the authorities. ★

MEMORIAL

PHRONSIE JOAN DEEN • 10/23/1941 - 1/22/24

Phronsie Joan Deen, 82, a resident of Biggs for over six decades, passed away in her home on Monday, January 22, 2024. Phronsie was heavily involved in her family farm, passionate about her family, and was dedicated as one of Jehovah's Witnesses 51 years ago and spent her life sharing her personal convictions of the Bible's hope for the future of the human family and of



Fairryn Graff. Also, her brother and two sisters along with her brother-in-law Stanley Deen as well as multiple nieces, nephews and friends.

There will be a public memorial on February 24, 2024 at 12:00 pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 140 Idaho Street, Gridley, CA. A luncheon will immediately follow in Butte Hall at the Butte County Fairgrounds

the earth. She is survived by her daughter Dandrea Deen, her grandson, Colton Graff, and granddaughter

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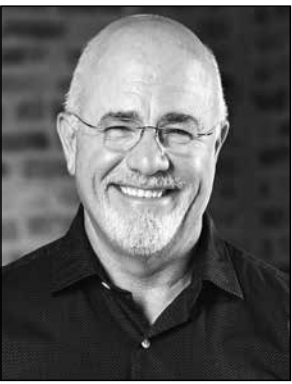
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Dave Ramsey Says

Otherwise, you might use your emergency fund for something that's just the result of poor planning.

Number two, is it absolutely necessary? Most of us think we know the difference between needs and wants, but sometimes the line gets a little blurry. If your car goes completely kaput, and you need transportation, use your emergency fund to buy something affordable and reliable you can pay cash for. But don't dip into your emergency fund just to upgrade your good car for one with a million bells and whistles. That's a want, not a need.

And three, is it urgent? Sometimes, you have act like a grown-up. Every idea that pops into your mind isn't unexpected, necessary or urgent. You can live that way if you want, but the result will be a quickly depleted emergency fund. Then, what're you going to do when a real emergency comes along?

Practice the art of patience. Avoid impulse

buys. Urgent things include stuff like a broken air conditioner in the middle of summer, a busted transmission or sudden, unexpected medical expenses. A big sale at Wal Mart? No. Concert tickets? Definitely not. That great new pair of shoes you just saw in a store window? Give me a break!

Your emergency fund is about long-term security, not instant gratification. Don't use it on a whim. But don't be afraid to use it when you really need to!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions ★

An Emergency Fund Isn't About Instant Gratification

Dear Dave,

We've all our debts paid off, except for our home, and our fully funded emergency fund of six months of expenses is in place. In talking to people, it seems there are lots of different opinions as to what constitutes an emergency. What guidelines do you suggest when deciding whether to use our emergency fund?

- Ingrid

Dear Ingrid,

Here are three things to ask yourself when you're tempted to dip into your emergency fund. One, is it unexpected? Things like Christmas, birthdays and even certain bills come around at the same time every year. If you're not already budgeting for these things, it's time to start.

Thoughts to Ponder

by Kathy Neal

Gridley United Methodist Church



Be a "standout" Christian in our world of chaos and darkness.

I once read this and felt it came at the right time in my life. I hope it helps all of you: "Your great victories may lie in the rear-view mirror. You may feel your life has peaked, or it never did. No matter! Look around. The battles may seem smaller, the stakes less profound; but there are others that need you. Serve them well for Jesus' sake and it will count. They are your purpose. The reason you are still here." WOW!

God still has plans to use us. Old and grey. Beat up and broken. Poor of finances or even spirit. God uses us! It is not too late; God still has a future for us. Abraham was 90 when he had a son by God. Noah was in his hundreds when he built a ship. Moses was 80 when he confronted Pharaoh. Elizabeth was old when she had John the Baptist.

Too young, too old that's not in God's job description. Samuel was three when he heard God speak. David was ten when he killed a giant. Now what is for you?

What do you have in God's power to do? Cook a meal. Put clothes on a needy back. Offer a ride to someone. Smile at a person at work. Help lift a load that is too heavy for week hands. Comfort a sad child or a lonely elder. You have within you the ability to be God's hands and feet.

God doesn't give up on us and we should not give up or quit on Him. We can offer prayers. We can message and make calls to those home bound. Checking up on a person is a true blessing. It makes people feel looked at and thought of. I know I have someone that checks on me every day and I feel blessed to know I am thought of.

No matter how small or how different it is. What you do for others in Jesus' name makes a difference and is needed. Do it! God needs you on earth for His plans.

Come to the Gridley United Methodist Church and we can all find new ways to help others. We are located at 285 Magnolia Street. We meet every Sunday at 10 am. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Have you started seedlings yet? Time to get started if you like to grow plants from seed. I didn't get sweet peas into the ground. I'm going to try growing some in the green house and then transplant into the garden. It'll be interesting to see if this is successful or not. The other seeds I spread in late winter are the columbine seeds I collected in late spring. These are

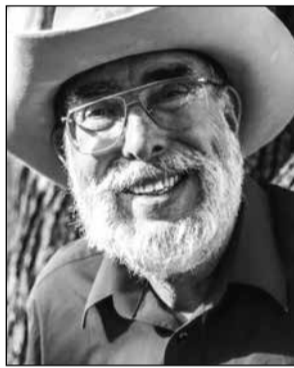
scattered over the flowerbeds and they always come up in surprising and perfect places.

I have some plants that I have to dig up and separate. I'll be putting them together for the Green Thumb Garden Club plant sale on Red Suspenders Day. Now is a great time to do cuttings on some plants. I missed the perfect time for salvia cuttings which work great in October but will work well now too.

Imbolc (Ground Hog Day) is here, the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Imbolc is a celebration of the return of more sunlight as Winter wanes and Spring waxes. If you try to think about people who had no electricity and lived in cold

northern climates, you might be able to get in touch with the importance of what the return of longer days represented in ancient times. Winter supplies would be getting low. We still experience this process whether we recognize it or not. Flowers especially bulbs come up and bring additional color into our lives. In California we don't feel these changes as severely as you might in North Dakota. We'll see what Punxsutawney Phil has to say on Ground Hog Day. I'm predicting an early Spring in our area. My decorative pear tree in front is ready to pop buds. Happy warmer times. "Here comes the sun, little darling, it's been a long, cold, lonely Winter." Beatles 1969 ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

Some of the earlier knights of the coffee table arrived just before daylight, flipping their cups to the upright and fillable positions, and were joined quickly by Dewey, which is an unusual occurrence. Doc was the only one of us downwind from Dewey, and we watched to see if any fainting took place, but evidently Dewey had not yet begun his job of transferring soil nutrients from the dairies to people's yards. "How's it going, Dewey?" Dud said. We all

"Melvil Dewey"

like Dewey.

"Finer'n frog hair, Dud. My shoulder's in shape for a shovel and I'm sure gonna shovel..."

"Well, yes you are," Doc said, quickly.

"Dewey's an interesting name," Dud said. "Was your mother ... dewy eyed when you were born?"

"That's D-E-W-Y. My name has the extra e in it. Actually, I was named for a famous man."

Doc sipped over that one for a minute.

"Thomas E. Dewey!" shouted Doc. "Governor of New York. Candidate for President. Your mother was a Republican, right?"

"Uh, no ... not him, I'm afraid."

"I know ..." said Steve.

"Admiral Dewey. Whathis-name ... George. George Dewey of the Spanish-American War! Your dad was a fan of the Navy."

"Well, not exactly," Dewey said, although privately he thought that would've been a good guy to be named for.

"Well?" said Doc. "I've run out of Deweys. Who was it?"

"Melvil."

"Who?"

"Melvil Dewey," Dewey said. "You know ... Dewey Decimal System? My mom was a librarian." *Go to the library and check out some of my books. It's free and most of the words are spelled correctly.* ★



Grant Funds Awarded to Help Citrus Farmers Enhance Pollinator Habitat

The California Farm Bureau and its partners have received \$5 million from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to implement climate-smart farming practices in citrus groves in 11 counties. The project, which is part of CDFA's Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program, will focus on hedgerow planting, carbon sequestration and soil management practices, all of which create safe pollinator habitat in citrus groves. It will fund citrus groves in Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Tulare, San Diego, Placer and Ventura counties.

UC Davis Launches Center to Study Cultivated Meat and Proteins

The University of California, Davis, is establishing a new Integrative Center for Alternative Meat and Protein. The center will work toward large-scale commercialization and technological advancement of alternative proteins, including cultivated meat from animal cells grown in large fermentors, plant- and fungal-based foods and hybrids that combine conventional meat products with alternative proteins. The world's demand for meat is expected to increase 50% to 100% over the next 25 years, said Center Director David Block.

Research Takes Aim at Using Farm Byproducts for Fuels and More

University of California researchers are sharing new findings on how to access the sugars locked up in plant materials to convert byproducts into new feedstocks to produce fuels, materials and chemicals. The findings, published in the journal Green Chemistry, can help lower the technological barrier and make it easier for the sustainable conversion of plant material, including agricultural byproducts, said Tina Jeoh, a professor of biological and agricultural engineering at the University of California, Davis, which led research on the project.

USDA Announces \$207 Million Effort to Boost Fertilizer, Renewable Energy Production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$207 million in renewable energy and domestic fertilizer projects in an attempt to lower energy bills, generate new income and strengthen competition for U.S. farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers. The plan was announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in Salt Lake City. Vilsack said the investments "will expand access to renewable energy infrastructure and increase domestic fertilizer production." ★

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PG&E Resumes Power Line Undergrounding Project Along Highway 70

PG&E News Release

PLUMAS COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has resumed work to underground power lines along Highway 70 between Storrie and Rich Bar in Plumas County.

PG&E's contractor MGE is continuing work to underground about 16 miles of power lines along the highway, starting from about 3 miles east of the Butte-Plumas County Line and working to Rich Bar Road. Work began in December of

2022 and continued until last October as planned.

One-way traffic controls will occur as crews trench and install conduit for underground lines.

Motorists are advised to allow for more time when traveling this route and can expect delays of up to 15 minutes between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays, except for holidays, until the project is completed in 2025.

"We at PG&E are deeply committed to doing everything we can to prevent wildfires in the communities we serve and live in," said Joe Wilson, Vice

President of PG&E's North Valley & Sierra Region. "Our region has been devastated by wildfires in recent years. Undergrounding work protects our communities."

The work is part of PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program and is in response to California's growing wildfire risk. Undergrounding is just one of our layers of wildfire protection that has proven to be effective in reducing wildfire risk.

PG&E is committed to moving 10,000 miles of powerlines underground in the highest

fire-risk areas to reduce wildfire risk and improve reliability throughout California. Burying powerlines is the most effective solution to reducing the risk of wildfire from electrical equipment, reducing the risk of ignitions in areas at the highest risk of wildfire by nearly 98%. Undergrounding also makes power more reliable by reducing outages caused by winter storms, and in some cases eliminates the need for safety shutoffs.

PG&E is building and expanding its electric system underground to not only

help reduce wildfires caused by equipment, but also to reduce the need for wildfire safety-related power outages. Undergrounding will also help protect trees, improve system reliability, and beautify communities.

PG&E has completed and continues undergrounding projects in Plumas County along Highways 89 and 70 and in Greenville.

For questions and more information about road impacts, the public may call PG&E's Customer Rebuild Line at 800-254-5810. ★



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LOCAL FISHING

San Pablo Reservoir east of Richmond. A great place to take your family. Planted with trout and catfish on 12-24-2023. A shore line of 14 miles on his 866 acre reservoir. Motors okay, 6-lane boat ramp, no swimming or paddle boards. Café. Opens Friday, Feb. 21, 2024. Lake Minden near Nicholas. 41 acres, 3-4ft deep. Contains small catfish and large mouth bass. Catfish... Try: Stink Bait. (b). Bass... Try: 5" Crankbait. (a).



Crankbait

SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA

San Francisco Bay; halibut season reopens in March 2024. Avoid muddy water in the Delta. Go to Montezuma Slough. Caught 10- stripers. Try: Grass Shrimp, or Sardine. (b)

COASTAL WATERS

San Francisco Coast. Sportsman crab fishermen can now use crab pots. Limiting on 3.0 lb. Dungeness Crabs. Try: Fish Offal. (b) Bodega Bay; commercial crab boats loading up on nice Dungeness Crab. Can be found in local markets now at \$5.99 per pound.

LAKES RESERVOIRS

Donner Lake; water temp is 59 degrees. Slow troll at 1.8 MPH, side-planer set at 150 ft, 8-feet deep. 15 pound Mackinaws caught and released. Try: 6"-Broke-back Rebel. (b) Folsom Lake; King Salmon of 4-5 lbs. caught at 30-ft



Rapala with side planer

deep. Try: Side-planer at 30' deep/ 3 3/4" deep running Rapala. (b) Paradise Lake; tired of fishing. Go ice skating. Admission \$14.00 includes ice skates. Rollins Reservoir, just north of Colfax on highway 80. Originally named "Rio de Oso" (Bear River). Lots of Spotted Bass. Camp at Long Ravine CG and fish the shoreline. Try: Carolina Rig. Also, known for its Pumpkin Seed Sunfish. Found in shallow waters, kids love Um, they taste so good. Try: Baby Frog. (b)

RIVERS

American River; below Nimbus Fish Hatchery, continues turning out nice 5 lb. chummies. Try: Soft Eggs. (a) Sacramento River below Shasta Dam too muddy for fishing. Rainbow Bridge above Shasta Lake has big rainbows biting. Try: Caddis Fly. (b)

"A pig in a poke" ~ *Brownie*

Gridley Resident Arrested After Shooting

Butte County Sheriff's Office News Release

GRIDLEY, CA - On January 23, 2024, around 8:00 p.m., Butte County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the 700 block of Township Road, Gridley. Witnesses reported a male subject standing in the doorway of a small structure on the property, discharging a firearm in an unsafe manner. The subject was later identified as Cesar Serrano Cota, age 37, of Gridley. Deputies arrived and determined Cota was armed with a handgun.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office SWAT

Team and Crisis Negotiators responded to the residence. After approximately three hours Cota exited the residence and was detained without incident.

When Cota was arrested, detectives located the firearm he was shooting. Cota was booked into the Butte County Jail for being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and for willful discharge of a firearm in a grossly negligent manner. Anyone with additional information related to Cota's arrest is encouraged to contact the Butte County Sheriff's Office Felony Investigations Unit at (530) 538-7671. ★

Grandson Charged with Murdering his Grandmother

Butte County District Attorney News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A Forbestown man has been charged with murder for the killing of his grandmother as a result of an investigation conducted by the Butte County Sheriff's Office. He failed to appear in court for his arraignment after it was reported he unsuccessfully attempted to hang himself in the Butte County Jail.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today his office filed charges in Butte County Superior Court on Kenneth Sean Lewis, 37, of Forbestown, for the murder of Violet Macgregor, 80, after meeting with sheriff's detectives and reviewing their evidence of the killing.

Ramsey said the investigation revealed that Lewis had been living with his grandmother for several years. Ramsey went on to say the elderly Macgregor was killed in her Forbestown home sometime during the

late night of January 20, 2024. Lewis contacted sheriff's dispatch the next morning to report her death. Responding fire and sheriff's officers found McGregor naked in a tub in her bathroom at the home.

Ramsey said Lewis was found to be heavily intoxicated and was taken into custody on a violation of probation for a previous driving under the influence conviction. After the detectives finished their investigation, Lewis was arrested for the murder of his grandmother. The detectives noted the cause of Macgregor's death appears to be blunt force trauma, but a final determination is pending a forensic autopsy later this week.

Ramsey said Lewis faces the possibility of life in prison for his actions. The judge today appointed a public defender for Lewis in his absence and scheduled a further arraignment for January 31, 2024. The judge also set bail in the case at \$1,000,000. ★



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SPARKY'S CORNER

Scald Emergencies

With National Burn Awareness Week being in the month of February, here is some basic information on pediatric scalding emergencies.

WHAT TO DO

- Set water heater temperature to no higher than 120°F/48°C, or just below the medium setting
- Create a "no kid zone" in the kitchen around stoves, ovens and hot items
- Keep hot drinks away from the edge of tables and counters
- Use a travel mug with a tight fitting lid for all hot drinks
- Place pots and pans on the back burner with handles turned away from the edge of the stove

WHAT NOT TO DO

- Leave a child unattended in the bathtub; if you must leave, take the children with you
- Allow young children to adjust the water temperature or sit near faucet handles
- Set anything hot on tabletops within reach of young children who can pull them down
- Allow appliance cords (slow cookers, deep fryers, coffeemakers) to dangle over the counter edge

THE FACTS

The average annual cost of scald injuries is \$44 million. Over 136,000 children were seen in emergency rooms for burn injuries in 2011. 1,100 children die each year from fire and burns.

THE FIX

The average annual cost of scald injuries is \$44 million. Over 136,000 children were seen in emergency rooms for burn injuries in 2011. 1,100 children die each year from fire and burns.

IF A BURN INJURY DOES HAPPEN ...

- 1) Cool the burn with COOL (not cold) water to stop the burning process
- 2) Remove all clothing and/or diaper from the injured area
- 3) Cover the area with a clean dry sheet or bandages
- 4) Seek medical attention and call 911



Thank You,
Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74



Butte County District Attorney News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A Sacramento man was sentenced in Butte County Superior Court yesterday on two counts of felony vehicular manslaughter, and causing great bodily injury to a child under the age of five stemming from the fiery fatal collision near the intersection of Highways 149 and 99 on August 6, 2023.

Dangelo Charles, 25, of Sacramento, was also sentenced on felony counts of reckless driving and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Charles was driving a VW Jetta sedan south on Highway 149 just south of Highway 99 when he fell asleep and drove from the slow lane straight across the fast lane crossing the gravel median and striking a Ford Ranger pickup truck head-on. Officers arrived and determined the two occupants of the pickup truck, Oscar Vasquez and Ana Pareja-Estrada, were deceased and proceeded to extricate Charles, his girlfriend, and her three-year-old son from the sedan, both of whom were seriously injured.

After Charles and his passengers were taken from the sedan, a loaded semi-automatic pistol was found on his driver's seat. During the rescue effort, the truck caught fire and the fire spread to the

sedan, burning both vehicles.

Charles has been held in the Butte County Jail facing his felony charges since he was released from the hospital for his own injuries on August 13, 2023. Charles had previously served a prison term out of Sacramento County for armed robbery.

According to doctors, the child is permanently paralyzed from the waist down due to his spine being broken in the crash. The child's mother was also gravely injured but has since physically recovered.

Charles wrote in his probation report that he had stayed up late the night before he drove his girlfriend and her son from Chico toward Sacramento. He admitted that he had smoked some marijuana that morning before the 2:30 p.m. collision. Some marijuana, but no alcohol was detected in hospital blood tests.

At the January 25 sentencing, the child's family and the decedents' families provided emotional statements to Judge Corie Caraway regarding the devastating effect the collision has had on their lives.

Judge Caraway sentenced the defendant to 15 years 4 months finding that despite the state legislature's mandate that judges should sentence defendants to a lower term when they are 25 or younger. The judge found that justice would not be served by a low term, and public safety required a higher sentence. ★

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Marysville Bok Kai Festival News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - We are excited to present the 144th Annual Bok Kai Day Celebration and Bomb Day, March 9th and 10th, 2024. The Bok Kai Parade is one of the longest continuous parades in California, even operating during COVID-19.

It's history: The Marysville Bok Kai Parade Committee met earlier this week and now is accepting applications for the 144th Bok Kai Parade Festivities to be held on March 9th and 10th. We welcome all to come and enjoy. Parade entries and vendor applications are now available through our website.

The Marysville Chinese Community is working hard to welcome visitors from all over to the 144th Bok Kai Festival which includes a "Parade" and the "Firing of the

Bombs." Both traditionally have been held in Marysville now for 144 years. This year much more will be added to the festivities for the whole family to enjoy! Refer to the web page for more updates on all the festivities.

We rely on the support of community partnerships to continue our preservation work at the Bok Kai Temple, The Bok Kai Temple Museum, and the Historic Marysville Chinese School Museum. Sponsorship levels are available, attached is the link.

Please go to Bokkaitemple.com, and once in the link scroll down to "Bok Kai Celebration." Tap on it and it will take you to the various forms and applications. Should you have any questions there is contact information available on the web page.

Thank you for your continuous support! Happy New Year! ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

POPEYE THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Headlight is missing. 3. Buttons are added. 4. Bricks are lower. 5. Headlight is smaller. 6. Shirt is different.

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

GRIN AND BEAR IT

TIGER by BUD BLAKE

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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Marr Joins 1000 Point Club, Gridley Girls Back on Track

Story and photos
by Steven Bryla

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley girls basketball team got back on track in the Butte View League after they went 2-0 in the week of January 22-26 with wins over Las Plumas and Corning.

Gridley won a nail biter on Tuesday, January 23, with a 37-35 victory over Las Plumas that also made it a historical night for junior forward Brook Marr.

Marr became the sixth player in Lady Bulldogs history as she hit the 1000 career points milestone, according to Gridley Head Coach Becca McCray.

Marr needed 11 points during the game, and she had six points at the end of the first half where Gridley led 18-17.

Both teams couldn't break away from one another as Las Plumas made it clear they were attempting to not let Marr get the ball inside the paint.

With six minutes and 40 seconds left in the game, Marr joined the 1000-point club as she snagged an offensive rebound and put a shot back up for the basket.

Marr put her head down and instantly went down to the other end of the floor to play defense as everyone in the gym was cheering for Marr.

McCray called a quick time-out and everyone instantly stood up and looked in Marr's direction with a big applaud and cheer.

Smiles were all over the huddle and Marr got a chance to decompress. Marr and McCray expressed to the Herald that McCray congratulated Marr

and told her to keep playing her game.

McCray is also a member of the 1000-point club as she did it in her time as a Lady Bulldog.

Gridley senior guard AnaGloria Luevano told the Herald that it was a special moment for her as she and Marr came up to the varsity level at the same time with one another.

Luevano had 13 points, two rebounds and two assists in the win. Las Plumas made it a tight game the entire way as down the stretch it was a back-and-forth affair, but in the end, the lady Bulldogs were playing defense and up two points with 11.3 seconds in the game.

In true Marr fashion, she blocked a last second shot with a couple seconds remaining in the game, and Gridley pulled out the win.

Marr ended the game with 13 points, 13 rebounds and 11 monstrous blocks.

McCray told the Herald it was great to see everyone do their job, and it clicked on the floor for everyone as a unit.

McCray expressed to the Herald she was excited for Marr to hit the 1000-point mark as it showed her hard work pay off. McCray added that she told Marr to make her mark by the time her career as a Lady Bulldog is over.

Gridley won their final home game of the season on Friday, January 26, in a 58-37 win over Corning. The Lady Bulldogs traveled to Orland and Oroville this week to try and avenge their two league losses.

The Lady Bulldogs end the regular season next Friday, February 9, at Las Plumas. ★



Gridley junior forward Brook Marr (2) poses with her teammates following the Lady Bulldogs' 37-35 victory over Las Plumas on Tuesday, January 23, as they celebrate Marr's 1000-point career accomplishment.



Gridley junior forward Marr breaks the Lady Bulldogs' final huddle following the 37-35 win over Las Plumas on Tuesday, January 23.



Gridley junior forward Brook Marr (2) blocks the Las Plumas final shot to seal the Lady Bulldogs' 37-35 win on Tuesday, January 23.



Gridley junior Brook Marr (2) watched the ball go inside the net for her 1000 career points in the Lady Bulldogs' 37-35 victory over Las Plumas on Tuesday, January 23.



Gridley junior guard AnaGloria Luevano (5) shoots a three-pointer in the Lady Bulldogs' 37-35 win over Las Plumas on Tuesday, January 23.



Gridley senior guard AnaGloria Luevano (5) passes the ball in the Lady Bulldogs' 37-35 win against Las Plumas on Tuesday, January 23.

Lady Lions Top Winters

Story by Steven Bryla

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The Live Oak girls soccer team took sole possession of first place in the Sacramento Valley League on Tuesday, January 23, as they beat the Winters Warriors 1-0.

This was the biggest game for Live Oak of the season thus far as the Lady Lions have eased in victories for the last month and finished out the first half of the SVL schedule.

The Live Oak football stadium was a mud pit to play in as both teams had to be strategic on their offensive game plan as there were limited dry spots on the field, which included a few steps

inside the out of bounds line throughout the outermost part of the field.

Lady Lions senior midfielder McKayla Holmen told the Herald they stuck to short passes and took shots outside of the defense box.

"We couldn't run up to the ball without over-running it," Holmen said.

The lady Lions had a lot of opportunities to score throughout the game as there were at least five shots that grazed the crossbar and had the crowd on the edge of their feet, along with multiple close shots on goal that barely went outside of the goal posts.

The lone goal came in the 68th minute when Winters tried to send a pass backwards from a defender to sophomore goalie Violet Tuel, but it was too strong as the slick field conditions could have caused it as well to go past Tuel and inside for an own-goal and gave Live Oak the 1-0 lead.

Lady Lions freshman midfielder Nathalie Gutierrez was credited with the goal. Gutierrez is one of the many underclassmen who has gotten a lot of significant playing time in the rotation, and she has retained a lot of knowledge from the Live Oak older players and told the Herald that communication on the field is the biggest strength

she has learned this season.

The lady Lions were able to hold onto the lead and left the game as the leaders of the SVL. The league title has been decided primarily between Live Oak and Winters over the last few seasons, so the crucialness of getting the victory is big for the lady Lions.

Live Oak Head Coach Jose Acosta expressed to the Herald the importance of the victory over Winters.

"We don't want to be co-champs like we've had in the past; I want to be the only league champ and we have to beat them in their house," Acosta said.

Defensively, the lady Lions

were locked in and shut down Winters sophomore forward Ava Muir Vickrey.

Live Oak senior defender Maria Medina told the Herald that she focused on just staying ahead of Vickrey and not letting her get any edge offensively.

The lady Lions smothered Los Molinos on Thursday, January 25, in a 14-1 victory. Live Oak is on the road next week for the final week of the regular season at Pierce and Winters.

The Lady Lions were ranked as the No. 1 ranked Division II team in the CIF Northern Section rankings on Sunday, January 28.

Playoffs for the NS playoffs begin on Tuesday, February 13. ★

Midnight Cowboy - The Andy Rodgers Story

Story and photo by Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Many still remember the local legend, the Midnight Cowboy, strolling around Gridley in full cowboy dress, including chaps and sometimes his hay hooks, but never without a harmonica.

The performer was hard to miss, with a larger-than-life personality and musical talent that he was driven to share with everyone. Whether it was performing for the nation on the Gong Show or simply stopping to play for someone on the street, Andy Rodgers -the Midnight Cowboy, lived for blowing the blues on his harps.

Andy Rodgers was inducted into the Cowboy Blues Hall of Fame (Nevada City) and has played for many famous individuals. While his original Blues compositions have spread across the globe and he has been called the "Grand Daddy of the Blues," much of his personal story is unknown.

Georgie Ann Waddell met Rodgers in 1989 when she began working with him as a caretaker. Despite a 26-year age difference, Rodgers and Waddell would fall deeply in love. The Midnight Cowboy would spend the rest of his life with the woman he lovingly coined "Snowflake" after hearing one of her short stories. It was about a snowflake leaving the ice rink, landing on the cuff of a music man, and its resulting transformation, which was written 4 years before she met Rodgers. Waddell believes her story came true.

Waddell would eventually become Rodgers's manager and producer, helping him cut two albums with her label Snowflake Records "Chicken Thief Blues" and "Freight Train Blues". She would also document their adventures together and Rodgers would dictate his life stories to Waddell, as he did not know how



Author Georgie Ann Waddell holds her biography about the Blues Legend the Midnight Cowboy, Andy Rodgers. A giant photo of Andy Rodgers sits next to her.

to read or write when they met.

In "Andy Rodgers, Midnight Cowboy: Snowflake and the Music Man," Waddell shares these personal stories of the legend, pivotal events in the man's life, and the experiences they shared together. The biography is a compilation of decades of memories, journal entries, photo albums and more, giving the reader an intimate view of the man Andy Rodgers really was, and the love that he shared with Snowflake.

Rodger's biography is somewhat a non-linear read; One can turn to any of the 340 pages and pick short story that delves into the man behind the harmonica, poems, quotes, candid photos

of the legend, and of course, the story of how he got the name Midnight Cowboy. It is written in his vernacular and how the man spoke – sometimes colorfully, openly, and honest. An undercurrent of the love that Waddell still has for Rodgers and her mission to share his extraordinary life with the world runs throughout the whole book.

In a "Letter to my Readers," that acts as a forward to the biography, Waddell shares her motivation for completing Rodger's biography.

According to Waddell, Rodgers often repeated to her that he wanted to leave her something special and that she "was going to be a rich white girl

when I am dead and gone," from the book she would write about him. That comment still upsets her to this day, but she says that Rodgers knew she could tell his story the way he would want it to be told. Rodgers told her, "That's why I tell you all these stories I tell no one else so you can write and tell the people who I am."

Waddell writes, "This is what has prompted me to organize my history and research so all of you will have the opportunity to know this legend. When two hearts meet, it doesn't matter the age or racial and social differences, it only matters that you are. Together we became Snowflake and the Midnight Cowboy." She continues,

"Writing this book is about his legacy to the Blues and cowboys of our Nation. It's about his struggles and joys in life which made him the legend he is today. Each of us have our own memories, these are mine."

Nearly 20 years after his passing, Waddell is still madly in love with her Midnight Cowboy.

The Biography "Andy Rodgers, Midnight Cowboy: Snowflake and the Music Man" is now available in print. If you are interested in reading about Rodgers' amazing life, and learning a thing or two you may never have known about our local legend, please contact Georgie Ann Waddell to procure your copy at Snowflake-Midnight@att.net. ★



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