



Mariachi Music Returns to the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts

PAGE 3



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PAGE 12

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PAGE 11

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PAGE 4



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Failing Our Newborns

She opened a business to deliver babies, then California policies drove her out of the country



Midwife Madeleine Wisner evaluates Chloé Mick's belly during a maternal care consultation at Mick's home in Sacramento on Feb. 6, 2024. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

By Kristen Hwang

CALMATTERS - Madeleine Wisner dreamed of making community midwife services available to all expecting parents regardless of their income when she opened Welcome Home Community Birth Center in south Sacramento.

But 451 births and five years later, Wisner is packing up her family and moving from California to New Zealand, where government policies are far more favorable to midwifery. She closed her birth center in October.

Wisner was the only licensed community midwife who took Medi-Cal patients in the greater Sacramento region, but she's leaving, she said, because it was impossible to sustain the birth center. Insurance refused to pay two out of every three claims she submitted for services including prenatal visits, labor and delivery, at-home postpartum check ups, and lactation consultations, Wisner said.

"The entire system is not made for us," Wisner said. "I look at Medi-Cal as the standard of care, and midwives should be part of the standard of care."

Her experience and decision to leave reflects larger problems for California midwives highlighted in a new study released today from UC San Francisco's Osher Center for Integrative Health. It focuses on community midwives who work outside of hospitals but have licenses and training to perform much of the same reproductive care doctors provide to women with low-risk pregnancies.

The report warns that access to maternity care will worsen in California if the state does not increase the number of community midwives who are Medi-Cal providers at a time when hospitals are shutting down labor and delivery wards and maternal mortality is trending upwards.

Seventy-five community midwives are registered with Medi-Cal, according to data provided by the state. More than 1,000 nurse midwives are registered with Medi-Cal, but the majority of those providers work in hospitals and not in community settings, researchers said.

Outdated licensing requirements,

tortuous state regulations and cumbersome insurance policies make it nearly impossible for community midwives to accept Medi-Cal patients, the UCSF report found.

Medi-Cal is the state's health insurance program for extremely low-income residents. It pays for 40% of all births statewide, and midwife care is a guaranteed benefit for expecting mothers.

On paper, the benefit includes community midwifery, which focuses on providing care close to where people live either at a birth center or in the home. But the reality is different, researchers and providers say.

"So many people who have taken Medi-Cal in the past have had to stop or close their practices, and so many people who want to have not been able to make it happen," said Ariana Thompson-Lastad, lead author of the study.

California's 'Momnibus' Act

The UCSF findings come at a time when the state is trying to make inroads against persistent maternal and infant health disparities, particularly among Black families. Statewide surveys show Black mothers are the most interested in alternative birth support through doulas and midwives, which have been shown to improve a variety of birth outcomes.

Doulas are birth workers who provide non-medical social and emotional support during and after

pregnancy while licensed midwives are clinically trained professionals who can provide a range of independent reproductive care for low-risk moms and babies.

In an effort to chip away at inequities, state lawmakers passed the "California Momnibus Act" three years ago. It required Medi-Cal to cover postpartum care for a full year after birth — the period when most maternal deaths happen — and added doula benefits. In January, rate increases for California doulas made them the highest-paid in the nation.

But state regulations simply aren't designed to accommodate the services community midwives provide, UCSF researchers found.

For example, the Medi-Cal application until recently asked midwives to list a supervising physician even though licensed midwives are authorized to practice independently. Providers also said most community midwives conduct home visits during pregnancy and especially after birth, but Medi-Cal billing policies make it difficult to get reimbursed for services that happen outside of a clinical facility.

"The overarching policy issue for licensed midwives in California is that we continue to be regulated under a very dysfunctional arrangement," said Rosanna Davis, president of the California Association of Licensed Midwives.

Wisner, who served mostly

Continued on page 9



Midwife Madeleine Wisner uses a fetal doppler on Chloé Mick's belly during a maternal care consultation at Mick's home in Sacramento on Feb. 6, 2024. Wisner is listening to the fetal heartbeat. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

Proclamations and Recognitions

Fill Council's First February Meeting

By Sharon Pearce

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The February 6, 2024, Marysville City Council meeting, lasting barely 50 minutes, consisted of proclamations, plaque presentations and the approval of routine business.

Chris Gill took the podium to summarize the opening in two weeks of the Training Zone several years in the making, and presented graphic slides of the +30,000 square foot workout health club. Gill stated his team's next project would be building a fun place, maybe a tap house, at the property at 5th and D Streets — "something family-based," he said. Mayor Chris Branscum again pronounced, "Marysville is open for business," and referenced the City's efforts to build amenities "this side of the river."

Mayor Branscum also delivered a proclamation to the Coach Rosellini Clean Up Crew for its work at Ellis Lake. The Mayor noted the crew's help in landscape beautification, maintenance, and tree-trimming, the latter even leading to removal of a homeless site, and said it gave the City time to focus on other beautification efforts. It was noted that the crew has over 500 members on its social media page. Mayor Branscum pointed out that February 10th was set aside at the Elks Club for the Charter Academy's adopt-the-park project to improve landscaping at Ellis Lake from 10 a.m. to noon, pizza provided.

All items on the Consent Calendar were approved unanimously. This included approving accounts payable in the amount of \$1,520,512.16 for the period of January 6, through January 26, 2024; approving the City Council meeting minutes from the January special and regular meetings; approving Resolution and Side Letter for the following City of Marysville Bargaining Groups, Marysville Mid-Managers and Executive Group, Marysville Police Officers Association (both non-sworn and sworn), and Teamsters Local 137, done to bring all bargaining units under the same language. There was discussion of ways that individuals who had used up their leave time could receive donated time, if needed.

No. 4 was to adopt Ordinance 1451 and waive its second reading authorizing the changes to Chapter 5.48 of the Marysville Municipal Code entitled, "Massage Establishments and Massage Therapist."

Continued on page 2

MEMORIAL

WARREN THOMAS RILEY • 1/11/1935 — 2/5/2024



Warren Thomas Riley joined his heavenly father February 5, 2024 at the age of 89. God blessed Warren's faithfulness and allowed him to live independently on his property until his last day. Warren was born January 11, 1935 to Clement Thomas Riley (b 12/05/1887) and Alice Marie Warren Riley (b 2/18/1893) at Rideout Hospital in Marysville, California.

At a very early age, Warren chose to follow in his father's footsteps as a 3rd generation farmer, embarking upon a career which would span 60 years. Warren Riley was known as a very kind, genuine, humble, and extremely well-organized farmer. He raised 13 different types of crops before setting his focus on growing rice and prunes. In addition to farming, he served his country in the Army National Guard for 6 years as a Staff Sergeant & sharpshooter. He also served his community as a Trustee of the Live Oak Unified School district for 17 years.

Warren will be remembered most for the Godly characteristics he embodied. His integrity and faithfulness to God and his

family were remarkable. With his charm he could light up the room. Those who knew him best appreciated the sensitivity, love, sense of humor, and patience he expressed. Warren was a wonderful husband to his wife Dolores - always considerate, kind, and expressing his love toward her. Their partnership, mutual respect, and admiration for each other was truly extraordinary. Warren was undoubtedly an amazing father. He fully supported his children to follow their dreams and career paths. Warren was an incredible grandfather, taking an active interest in the well-being of his grandchildren and regularly expressing how proud he was of them. He absolutely loved dropping by his friends' homes after church to visit and catch up with them.

Warren was

predeceased by his parents, Clement Thomas Riley and Alice Marie Warren Riley, his wife Dolores Orma Riley, and his brother Raymond Riley. He is survived by his daughters Lisa Marie Rosecrantz (John) and Julie Ann Adelman (Aaron), and his son Timothy Warren Riley (Mary Ann). Warren is also survived by 7 grandchildren: Danny Rosecrantz, Tori Rosecrantz, Jacob Adelman, Sarah Adelman, Rebekah Adelman, Tyler Riley, Bryce Riley.

Warren's Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday 2/17/24 at 11:00 am at the Hope Point Nazarene Church 600 N George Washington Blvd Yuba City CA 95993.

Warren and Dolores Riley were instrumental in establishing the "Lunch Bunch" (501c3) over 40 years ago. This venture is an outreach to Live Oak High School students where Christ's love and a Biblical message is shared along with great food weekly. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a tax-deductible donation payable to Lunch Bunch, Bob Woten 9412 N St. Live Oak, California 95953.

Proclamations and Recognitions Fill Council's First February Meeting

Continued from page 1

Item 5 approved an amendment to contract to 1) provide ongoing support for the Gavin Park Phase 2 project in amount not to exceed \$5,000, 2) approve the award of a cooperative purchase agreement for additional slide hardware, fine mesh platform and O'tanenbaum spinner playground equipment in the amount not to exceed \$32,138.83, 3) approve the agreement to purchase a Playshaper play structure in an amount not to exceed \$42,508.27, 4) approve the award of an installation contract to install

playground equipment in amount not to exceed \$22,222.50 and 5) utilize any project surplus for repair of play equipment in other parks within the City. Item 6 adopted Resolution No. 2024-XX accepting the 5th Street Rehabilitation Project; and to authorize the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion.

Councilmember Brad Hudson referenced the upcoming annual Bok Kai (Chinese Water God) Weekend in March, indicating a rib cooking contest will be included. Bok Kai is esteemed in Marysville

to protect the city from flooding.

Mayor Branscum expressed he was touched by citizen activism and beautiful decorations that are put into meetings.

The Horizon Medispa Ribbon Cutting was announced for 2 p.m., Feb. 12th. The D Street Planning meeting was scheduled for Feb. 7th with a motion of approval to go to the Council meeting February 20th. It was announced that meeting would probably run long due to a presentation planned from Community Development. ★

MEMORIAL

JANET ELIZABETH DEWEY THEISS • 4/6/1953 - 2/2/2024

Janet Elizabeth Dewey Theiss, strong in her faith, passed from this earthly life Friday morning, February 2, 2024. She was 70 years old. Janet was born on April 6, 1953, in Yuba City, California, and resided both in Richmond, California and in Live Oak, California. She was a member of the Live Oak Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Gridley. She attended Live Oak schools, graduating from Live Oak High School in 1971. Janet attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (Cal) with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Professionally, Janet was a manager at ETS in Berkeley.



She loved her volunteer work being an officer/leader in many clubs and community organizations.

Janet, a loving family member, is preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Alice Dewey, brother Allan Dewey, and son Martin Michael Theiss. She is survived by her loving husband of almost forty-eight years, William (Bill)

Theiss, her brother Martin Dewey, brother Bruce Dewey (Julie), and numerous nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

A service celebrating her life and faith will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Gridley, 495 Kentucky Street, Gridley, California, on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow the service, with inurnment at Sutter Cemetery.

Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children, American Association of University Women Yuba-Sutter, and/or the American Lung Association.

Janet will be missed by those who knew and loved her.

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Mariachi Music Returns to the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts

Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture is very pleased to announce the return of Mariachi music to its Sutter Theater Center for the Arts. Mariachi Real Monarcas from Sacramento is one of the most authentic Mariachi orchestras in California. Their roots are in Jalisco, Mexico, where mariachi music originated. The band promises its audiences a good time that will leave everyone wanting for more.

The concert will be held on Saturday, February 17 starting at 7 pm at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street in Yuba City. Doors will open at 6:30. General admission tickets are \$35 and \$10 for

children under 18. The last two mariachi concerts sold out so don't delay. Purchase tickets at yubasutterarts.org or call 530-742-2787. A portion of the proceeds will help support the new mariachi youth orchestra program currently being sponsored by the Alliance for Hispanic Advancement and the Marysville Joint Unified School District.

"Mariachi Real Monarcas was created by two people who decided to say, 'yes' to a dream more than a decade ago," said Luis Quintero, co-founder of the group. "After all this time, the members are as motivated as ever because the music is never-ending. The love for the music runs through our veins," he added.

The orchestra is made up of violins, trumpets, and

guitars including a higher-pitched guitar called a vihuela, an acoustic bass guitar called a guitarrón, and a mariachi harp. All the players are virtuosos in their own right. They take turns singing the lead and doing backup vocals. Their traditional charro outfits add to the beauty and sincerity of the music.

The history of mariachi dates to the 18th century and evolved over time in the countryside of western Mexico. Modifications of the music over the years included influences from other musical genres, the addition of trumpets, and the use of charro outfits by mariachi musicians. There are many mariachi styles, but they include corridos, cumbias, boleros, ballads, marches, polkas,



Mariachi Real Monarcas performance ready. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

and waltzes. Most of the lyrics are about machismo, love, betrayal, death, politics, revolutionary heroes, and country life. The origin of the word, mariachi,

is disputed, but it may come from the name of the wood used to make the wooden platform that couples would dance upon to the accompaniment of some early form

of mariachi music. Enjoy this concert in celebration of a unique musical form representing part of the wonderful cultural diversity of Yuba-Sutter. ★

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Ethan Conrad Properties Hits Landmark 10 Million SF in Property Ownership

Ethan Conrad Properties News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Ethan Conrad Properties (ECP), a giant in the Sacramento region's commercial real estate market, celebrates a groundbreaking achievement: Owning over 10 million square feet of Commercial Real Estate.

Ethan Conrad Properties purchased Yuba Sutter (380K+ SF) and Chico Marketplace (415K+ SF) in 2016 and 2018, which contributed significantly to their achievement. They approached the malls with a long-term plan to rebrand and reposition the centers to create relevance within their local communities. Both malls provided an opportunity to redevelop large anchor boxes into multi-tenant concepts to accommodate the popular stores that their customers wanted to see.

After successfully repositioning both malls, they significantly increased sales and foot traffic to the centers while adding jobs to the local economy. Both projects have been very successful and were well received by the local communities and municipalities as a driving economic force in the region.

ECP received a Certificate of Commendation from the City of Yuba City for significant improvements to the Yuba Sutter Marketplace. The Yuba City Mayor recognized ECP for their outstanding achievements in leasing and remodeling the Yuba Sutter Marketplace and enhancing the landscaping, signage, and complete remodeling of the property's exterior, which enriches the quality of life in Yuba City.

"Ethan Conrad Properties takes pride in remodeling properties that typically have deferred maintenance and low occupancy and leasing space in them to high-quality tenants that are a benefit for the communities in which they are located," said Ethan Conrad, CEO/President. "This is of particular importance and significant to the communities in retail properties. A black background with a black square

Based on their business model, Ethan Conrad Properties has received considerable positive community recognition and appreciation from Yuba Sutter Marketplace and Chico Marketplace. ECP has leased them



Ethan Conrad, President, CEO of Ethan Conrad Properties

over 400,000 square feet of space to high-quality retail tenants such as Hobby Lobby, At Home, Burlington, HomeGoods, Five Below, Raising Cane's, Boot Barn, and many other prominent national tenants.

Founded in 1995 by Ethan Conrad, ECP has grown from a single-employee venture with two properties into a dominant force in the industry, signifying a journey of resilience, innovation, and strategic growth. They are one of northern California's largest vertically integrated commercial real estate companies, specializing in retail centers, office buildings, and industrial complexes throughout the greater Sacramento region and the Central Valley.

One of ECP's core strategies is to buy value-add properties and extensively renovate/ improve them with a focus on adding value to both the properties and the communities with these improvements.

Today, ECP owns and manages over 170 Commercial Properties comprised of 10% Industrial, 30% Office, and 60% Retail, with a combined value of over \$1.6 Billion. They are primarily a retail landlord with over 2,000 tenants and nearly 200 employees.

The company's business model focuses on adding value through property improvements (appearance and functionality) and leasing them to good-quality tenants that bring jobs, desirable retail services, and products to the communities.

In 2023, ECP received a Certificate

of Commendation from the City of Yuba City for significant improvements to the Yuba Sutter Marketplace for their outstanding achievements in leasing and remodeling the Yuba Sutter Marketplace and enhancing the landscaping, signage, and the complete remodel of the property's exterior, which enriched the quality of life in Yuba City.

Ethan Conrad began his professional real estate career in 1989 as a broker at Bishop Hawk. He won various awards from the Association of Commercial Real Estate (ACRE), including the Rookie of the Year Award and Industrial Broker of the Year Award (BOYA).

Major milestones for the company include 2016 when ECP reached 100 employees; in 2018, Ethan Conrad was recognized by the Sacramento Business Journal as "One of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Commercial Real Estate in the Nation," and 2022-2023, achieved Broker Performance banner years. The Sacramento Business Journal recently nominated Ethan Conrad for Most Admired CEO. ECP continues its streak of being recognized as a Fastest Growing Company and ranked 4th largest Property Management Company by Sacramento Business Journal.

ECP's milestone will be celebrated in the coming months, featuring social media highlights of key properties. This achievement is a testament to the collective effort of the ECP team and its visionary leadership. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Don't Sell Yourself Short



Selling yourself short results from undervaluing your abilities, capabilities, potential, and worth. Whenever someone sells himself or herself short, they limit, from the start, what they'll be able to accomplish.

There are numerous reasons people give for selling themselves short. They proclaim they're too old, too young, not smart enough, don't know enough, don't have enough time, don't have the right connections, or don't know where to start.

When you sell yourself short, you hold yourself back. You set an artificial barrier your mind believes is true. As a result, your mind won't allow you to get past your self-imposed boundary.

This self-imposed restriction is based on a lack of belief in one's self. It becomes a constant source of self-criticism which is far more destructive than faultfinding by others. Your perceived reality is shaped and reinforced by your short selling proclamations.

You can become so used to selling yourself short that you aren't aware you are doing it. Your negative reaction to opportunity becomes an involuntary response. A cycle of self-fulfilling prophecy that validates your initial beliefs is then created. Consequently, your false premises are transformed in your mind into fact.

I try to motivate people, who are selling themselves short, by pointing out how much they are capable of. Invariably, they construct a vociferous argument as to the validity of their beliefs. Their thinking has become so entrenched they adamantly resist any outside attempt to encourage removal of any mental barriers.

At the age of 55, Mark was laid off from a job he had held for the last 20 years. He doubted he could effectively compete with younger people for a new job. Mark halfheartedly applied for a few positions in his field. After several interviews without an offer, Mark became convinced his age was a liability.

Mark lowered his expectations. He applied for jobs below his skill level.

Ultimately, he took a position that wasn't based on his many years of experience. Although Mark was frustrated and unhappy, he was resigned to live with his perceived age limitation. As soon as Mark convinced himself he couldn't get the job he wanted, he effectively eliminated any possibility he would.

A better strategy for Mark would have been to enthusiastically market his experience, skill, and maturity. Especially in today's labor pool, knowledge and competence are a valuable asset to any employer. Mark had many qualifications younger job prospects just didn't possess.

Amy had been very athletic in high school. She participated in most sports but especially enjoyed running. Now, many years later, after having raised her kids, Amy wanted to get back into running. She was overweight and out of shape.

But Amy didn't sell herself short. She knew she had the will to get back into the sport she enjoyed. Amy started off gradually. She began improving her diet and running short distances. Amy was consistent in her efforts, never wavering in her belief that she could accomplish her goal.

After much effort, Amy began racing again. Although she wasn't setting any speed records, Amy was doing what she wanted. Had Amy sold herself short, she never would have begun to get back in shape. "I'm too heavy," "It's too late for me to start running again," and "I just can't do it" would have been some of her justifications.

You have a choice. You can sell yourself short and come up with reasons why you can't do what you want. Or, you can identify reasons you can succeed. Then start today taking the necessary steps to reach your goal. Either way, you will meet your expectations.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@colunnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2024 Bryan Golden ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Sacramento Kings fans have not been accustomed to 5-2 road trips, and since that's exactly what the Kings just did, you would think the town would be celebrating. But blowout wins by the Oklahoma City Thunder, and of all teams, the Detroit Pistons, have given fans reason to pause and ask the question, who are these guys?

Well, they are a team with a huge upside, and one that is capable of beating any team in the NBA on any given night.

The most recent road trip started in San Francisco where the Kings came away with a one-point win over the Warriors, 134-133. During that same road trip, the Kings came away with wins over teams like Dallas, Memphis, Miami, and even the defending champs, the Denver Nuggets.

In the Denver game, should-be all-star Domantas Sabonis outplayed two-time MVP Nikola Jokic in every aspect of the game, coming away with another triple-double, and extending his streak of consecutive double-double games to 31, tying the franchise record held by Oscar Robertson.

Currently Domantas is not only leading the league in double-doubles for the second straight year, he is leading the league in triple-doubles with an eye popping 17! Domantas overtook Nikola Jokic, and is now leading the entire NBA in both categories.

After an amazing season last year, leading the league in rebounding and double-doubles, it is almost incomprehensible that he could be doing even better this year. No one in the league brings the consistency of effort to the hardwood every night like the Kings center, and he has become an absolute anchor for the team.

One other note, in regards to the win over the Nuggets, is that the Kings finally found their shot from the free throw line, shooting 89% for the game. Sadly, Sacramento remains in last place in the league, shooting with a 73% mark from the charity stripe. If the Kings have any hope of moving beyond the first round of the playoffs this has to change. Players have to take responsibility for making free throws and taking it seriously. This is a player issue, and definitely a coaching issue. Last place is not just embarrassing, it's unacceptable!

As the Kings go into Phoenix they bring a 30-22 record with them, which puts them 7th in the Western Conference. Both the Pelicans and

Suns enjoy a half-game lead over the Kings, and if Sacramento has any hope of moving beyond the first round of the playoffs, they need to leapfrog over both these teams.

Finishing in 5th place will likely provide a first-round matchup that is far better than the opponent they would meet if they finish 7th or 8th.

So, that begs the question, how do the Kings elevate their game and accomplish this task. One word — consistency. Something that has been lacking all year.

Throw in free-throw shooting and you have the recipe for success.

This team has players that bring it every night, and other players that recede for games at a time.

Harrison Barnes has been roundly criticized for his lack of consistent scoring, but I would have to add rebounds, and practically every other aspect of the game. Harrison will suddenly show up and look like the Harrison Barnes that played for the Golden State Warriors, and literally put the team on his back. But, just as quickly he will vanish, and at times it looks like the Kings are playing four-on-five. I have repeatedly begged for more playing time for Trey Lyles who is arguably a better all-around player, but this is a coach's decision, and Coach Brown doesn't show signs of messing with his starting lineup.

Keegan Murray looks like the guy with the sophomore slump, and much like Harrison, has games in which he is all but impossible to find. Keegan has had numerous positive moments this year, scoring 47 points in one game, and showing off an impressive midrange game that sometimes reminds me of Malik Monk.

Positives are that Davion Mitchell is getting increased time, as is Trey Lyles. Domantas Sabonis, De'Aaron Fox, and Malik Monk bring a consistent effort every game, but we need to add to this list.

I will add Kevin Huerter to the list of inconsistent players, and the real problem is that, like Harrison Barnes, Kevin is a starter. Coach Brown needs to shake things up and get both Malik Monk and Trey Lyles into the starting lineup. Both Huerter and Barnes can make their mark coming off the bench, but if the Kings continue on this path, I see a 7th or 8th seed in their future.

If you have a thought let me know at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

Go Kings and let's Light the Beam!! ★

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Death Notices

MCADAMS – Jimmie McAdams, 85, of Plumas Lake, passed away February 2, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

FLURRY – Jim Flurry, 79, of Yuba City, passed away February 3, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

FRANCIS – Jack Francis, 87, of Plumas Lake, passed away February 9, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

CHASE – Arlene Chase, 89, of Yuba City, passed away February 10, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.



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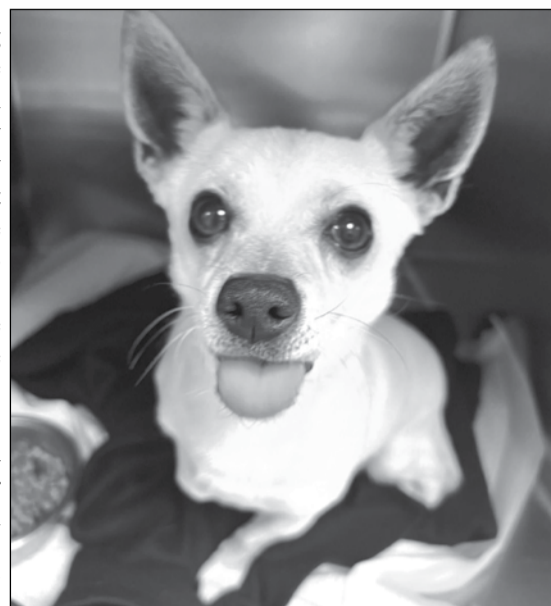
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Failing Our Newborns

Continued from page 1
Medi-Cal patients, said on average insurance reimbursed just 17% of her costs — roughly \$1,451 out of \$8,500 for a full course of prenatal, birth and postpartum care — and frequently took months to pay her.

“We’ve had people have two or three babies with us before we get paid for the first one,” Wisner said.

The state is trying to make improvements, said Holly Smith, co-lead of the California Midwifery Learning Collaborative, but the system is still “failing a lot of people.” The midwifery learning collaborative is a five-state initiative aimed at improving access to midwife care. The state agency that oversees Medi-Cal recently joined, Smith said.

In an emailed statement, the Department of Health Care Services said it is working closely with the midwifery learning collaborative to help midwives “successfully navigate and work within Medi-Cal.” The department is using a document drafted by the collaborative to “continue making program and policy improvements” on issues related to billing and applications, the statement said.

Midwives could help fill maternity gaps

Large studies of birth center and at-home birth outcomes show that when trained midwives care for low-risk patients, cesarean section and preterm birth

rates decrease while breastfeeding rates and reports of satisfactory birth experiences increase. Severe outcomes and deaths of mother and baby are exceedingly rare and similar to the rates found in planned hospital births. UCSF researchers also found that community midwives see patients more frequently before and after birth and are able to catch complications early.

The majority of Medi-Cal births — more than 80% — are babies of color. They and their mothers suffer some of the worst infant and maternal health outcomes. Even though the state has made improvements overall, it has struggled to curb severe pregnancy complications and death among Black women and babies. Black women of all income levels are more than four times as likely as white women to die from pregnancy-related complications and their babies are nearly three times as likely to die within a year, according to state data.

Physicians deliver the vast majority of babies in California, and while the percentage of babies delivered by certified nurse midwives has increased slightly in the past decade most certified nurse midwives work in hospital maternity wards under doctors. Often when maternity services end, providers leave the area.

At least 46 hospitals have closed maternity wards since 2012, leaving



Midwife Madeleine Wisner speaks with Chloé Mick during a maternal care consultation at Mick’s home in Sacramento on Feb. 6, 2024. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

a dozen counties without a single hospital delivering babies, a CalMatters investigation found.

Smith, with the midwifery learning collaborative, said historically state laws and policies have supported physician-only maternity care.

“It’s not safe anymore to do that,” Smith said. “We have a maternity desert situation. Literally hospitals are closing, and birth centers will be a necessary strategy for that.”

One of her last California patients

In a cozy house in Sacramento’s Oak Park neighborhood, Wisner has Chloé Mick lie back on her couch while her kids and husband play outside. Wisner measures the

length of Mick’s uterus, feels for the baby’s position and they both listen to the baby’s heartbeat. Mick is 25 weeks pregnant and tired.

“I feel the most depleted probably just from having two other children that I hope I have the inner strength to not get a bad attitude during the process and make it through,” Mick tells Wisner.

Wisner responded, “Has it occurred to you that having a bad attitude is OK?”

Mick is planning a home birth, and Wisner assures her that going to the hospital would not be “giving up.” It would be listening to her body’s needs and responding appropriately. They make plans for what to do if the baby is breech or if Wisner’s New

Zealand visa comes before Mick gives birth. When Mick’s second child was born, she was on Medi-Cal and Wisner was the only midwife who would take her.

“(The hospital) really feels like a business. You’re in and out, and you don’t have a rapport or relationship with them... It feels like your bodily autonomy is taken away,” Mick said. “And then you look back, and you wish you had done things different.”

Wisner wishes her birth center’s story had ended differently. Her practice finally had enough patient volume to maybe be sustainable, she said, but the other community midwives who worked with her didn’t want to argue

with Medi-Cal insurers day in and day out. Over the past five years, Wisner estimates she poured \$250,000 into the birth center to keep it open. It’s a big reason why she’s leaving California for another country where she’ll make \$60,000 a year working four days a week with a team of other midwives.

“There was always this promise that the system would be reformed, you know, Medi-Cal is gonna get reformed,” Wisner said. “I was really let down.”

Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more. ★

50 Years to Life for Child Molester

Yuba County News Release

YUBA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Yuba County Judge Julia Scrogin sentenced Uriel Solorio Lopez this morning to serve 53 years, eight months, to life in state prison for molesting two different children. The survivors and their mothers spoke at the sentencing, detailing the immense impact Lopez’s crime has had on them.

A Yuba County jury found Uriel Solorio Lopez, 37, of Olivehurst,

guilty back on December 14, 2023, of five felony counts of child molestation against two separate victims.

The crimes came to light in November 2022, when Jane Doe confided in her aunt that Lopez had repeatedly touched her sexually. The disclosure came out because Jane’s aunt took time to talk with Jane about sexual abuse. Jane hadn’t told the story before because she was embarrassed and afraid she wouldn’t be believed. Jane’s aunt and mother

believed and called 911.

Yuba County Sheriff’s Deputy Daniel Pierce handled the initial call before turning the investigation over to Detective Rosa Gonzalez. DA Investigative Assistant Ryleigh Schoemer conducted a forensic interview with Jane. Jane described Lopez molesting her starting when she was 10 years old, and continuing until early November 2022. Law enforcement believed, and arrested Lopez that same day.

News of Lopez’s arrest spread, reaching Sally Doe in December 2022. Sally spoke with her mother about Lopez’s arrest. Sally began to cry, explaining that Lopez had touched her when she was a child. Sally’s mother believed.

Sally and her mother went to the Sheriff’s Department and met with Deputy Justin Prince. Sally told him she only felt safe disclosing now that Lopez was in jail because he threatened to harm her if she ever told.

Sally began describing the abuse, but the memories were so painful she had to stop. She returned a few days later and told Detective Gonzalez the details of being abused by Lopez from the ages of 12 to 15. Deputy DA Brad Morrow tried the case.

Multiple witnesses testified, including Jane, her mother and aunt, Sally and her mother, Detective Gonzalez, Dr. Tiffany Anderson of the UC Davis Children’s Hospital, various members of Lopez’s family, and Lopez himself.

At the end of the trial, twelve jurors believed Jane and Sally, finding five of the six charges proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Thank you to all the heroes that believed and helped bring Lopez to justice. A special thank you to Jane and Sally for bravely coming forward. You are both heroes who no doubt have protected others. Finally, thank you to Jane’s and Sally’s families, and Yuba County Victim Services, for your unwavering support of these young women. ★

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION TRACT MAP TSTM “LDIV-22-0014” (Fernwood Village), NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND, FINDING OF PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR FERNWOOD VILLAGE, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Yuba County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street, Marysville, CA.

Tentative Subdivision Tract Map TSTM “LDIV-22-0014” (Fernwood Village): The County of Yuba and Habitat for Humanity Yuba are proposing to subdivide 10.24 acres of land into 89 single-family lots for an affordable housing development project. The Board will also review the declaration of APNs 021-210-047 & 021-207-010 as Exempt Surplus Land. Additionally, they will authorize the CDSA Director to initiate a request for proposal to identify a developer for the affordable housing and will review the issuance of a notice of surplus land availability to California’s Department of Housing and Community Development and relevant agencies or interested parties. Lastly, the Board will deliberate on granting authority to the Board Chair to make a Finding of Public Benefit for the Fernwood Village project in accordance with GC 25539.4.

The property is located on the east side of Grove Avenue and the west side of Fernwood Drive

The Board will be considering adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The public comment period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration was May 12, 2023 to May 31, 2023.

Any person wishing to testify at the Board of Supervisors hearing on the proposed project may appear before the Board at the prescribed time and place, or may submit written comments or objections to the Clerk of the Board at 915 8th Street, Suite 109, 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 Ciara Fisher, Planner III, at (530) 749-5470.

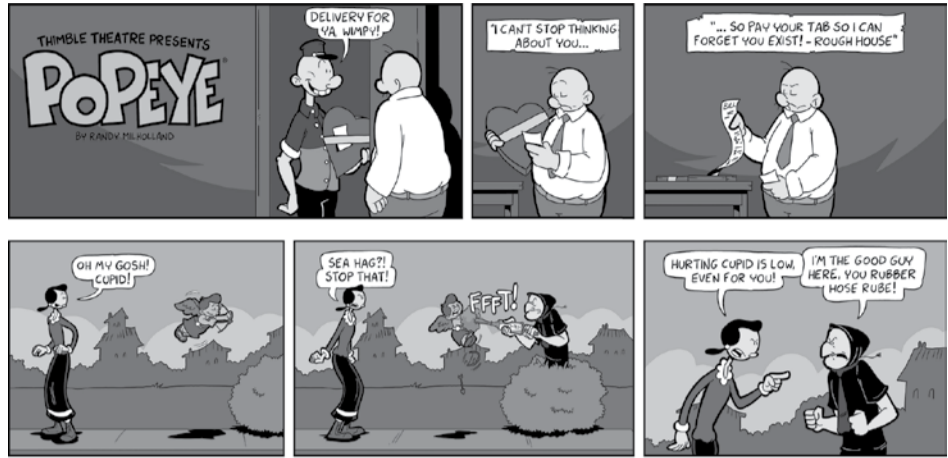
If you challenge in court the action or decision of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors regarding a zoning, planning, land use, or environmental determination made at any public hearing described in this notice, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone raised at such public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Yuba County Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, such public hearing.

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The Spats



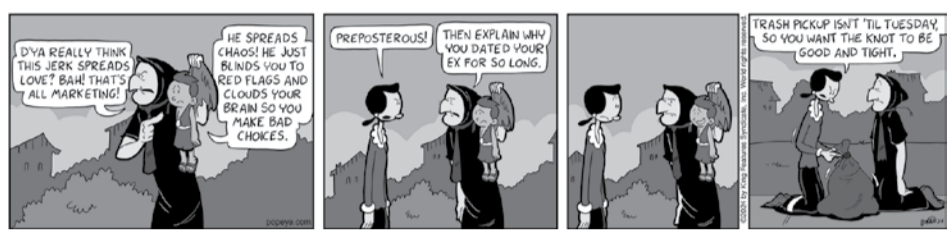
by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is different. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Label is higher. 4. Hair is different. 5. Saucer is missing. 6. Nametag is higher.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

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

- February 16 / 7 am Marysville Joint Unified School District, Dr. Fal Asrani
- February 16 / 8 am Dan Flores, Economic Development
- February 19 / 7 am TBD
- February 19 / 8 am Marni Sanders, Blue Zone Project
- February 20 / 7 am Adventist Health Blueout w/Eric Cooper and Dr. Babak Sanai-Ford and Dr. RP Singh
- February 20 / 8 am Crystal Martin, Yuba River Endowment
- February 21 / 7 am TBD
- February 21 / 8 am Wendell Anderson, Yuba County Sheriff
- February 22 / 7 am TBD
- February 22 / 8 am Janeili Willis, Yuba Sutter Chamber
- February 23 / 7 am Dr. Fai Asrani, Marysville School District
- February 23 / 8 am Marysville Business Alliance



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LOCAL FISHING

De Sabla Reservoir, Butte Co. Near Magalia, off Hwy. 32. Planted with catchable Brown Trout. Fish the Butte Canal above the falls. Late Dec. and late Jan. during the late evenings. Try: Live Crickets. (a)

ICE FISHING
2 of 5 Articles

Davis Lake elevation at 5,886 ft is frozen. We entered Lightening Tree boat ramp wearing snow shoes. Abe set up his Humming Bird Ice Helix 5-Chirp fish finder in each of the four ice holes, while Bob set up two ice huts. Our fat rainbows were wrapped in two layers of Reynolds Wrap foil, and stuffed with slices of bacon, lime and spices. Big, fat, live Grubs were used for bait.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA

San Francisco South Bay; Pacific Sanddabs are flat fish with two bulging eyes located on the right side of their heads, light brown in color with mottled brown spots...sometimes with white or orange spots. A sweet meat when grilled. Size...6"-8"/ 1 lb. Try: Cut Squid. (b) Limits of 3 Leopard Sharks. Clean immediately for best taste. Try: Fish Offal. (b) Both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Deltas are muddy and unfishable.

COASTAL WATERS

Monterey Bay. Perch being caught off the beach, some Dungeness Crabs. Perch...Try: Jerk Bait. (b) Dungeness Crabs...Try: rotten Chicken Guts. (a)



Rouge Rattling Jerk Bait

LAKES RESERVOIRS

Folsom Lake/ Backyard Pond. Turning out 11 1/2" to 16" Kings. Hooked eight and landed seven. Try: Speedy Shiner. (a) Lake Oroville. Spotted Bass bite is hot. Troll...15"-25' deep. Caught and released 35 fish, all fat and sassy.. Try: Swim Bait. (b) Los Vaqueros Reservoir/Livermore. Plant of 2000 Mt. Lassen Rainbow Trout. Five fish limit of 2-6 lb fish. Shore fishing in South Cove. Try: Garlic scented Power Bait. (b)

RIVERS

Yuba River below Parks Bar Bridge. Stage 62ft/ Flow 2700 CFS. Rainbows biting, if you can stand the cold 40 degree weather. Try: Yellow Humpy.



Yellow Humpy

(a) Truckee River running clean. Rainbows are biting. Try: Stone Fly. (b)



Stone Fly

Sacramento River. Stage 110 ft / Flow 42,000 CFS. Feather River/Boyd's Pump. Stage 34 ft / Flow 13,000 CFS. Both rivers muddy and unfishable.

"Fuddy Duddy"
~ Brownie

YS Symphony's Young Artist Showcase Concert February 24



YS Symphony in action. Photo courtesy of YS Symphony

Chris Kersting, YS Symphony News Release

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Yuba Sutter Symphony's Young Artist Showcase Concert will be presented on Saturday, February 24 at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1390 Franklin Road in Yuba City. The winners of the 2024 Yuba Sutter Oratorio Society's Young Artist Solo Competition will be the featured soloists at the concert. The winners were selected by the Board of the Yuba Sutter Oratorio Society at auditions recently. Those selected to perform are Amelia Martin, violin, who will play Mozart's Concerto in D 2nd Movement; Johanna Riffel, viola, playing Concerto in C minor by Henri Casadesus in the style of J.C. Bach; Allie Stockmal, violin, who will play Concerto in A minor 3rd Movement by Vivaldi; and Mykah Williams, French Horn, playing Strauss' Horn Concerto #1, 1st movement. All musicians will perform their winning solos with the

Yuba Sutter Symphony under the direction of Maestro Corey Kersting. Mr. Kersting says, "It is especially exciting to have four soloists this year! Each one has demonstrated great dedication to their music on their specific instruments, and we are excited to be able to showcase them as part of this program."

The Young Artist Showcase Concert was created by the Yuba Sutter Oratorio Society and the Yuba Sutter Symphony over 40 years ago. Its purpose is to provide the rare opportunity for gifted young musicians to play a solo piece with full orchestra accompaniment. Many of the former winners have gone on to careers in music and music education. Some have returned to the Yuba Sutter area as music teachers and performers.

In addition to the Yuba Sutter Symphony, the Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony will also be performing at the concert. The Youth Symphony, directed by Zachary Zumstein is comprised of talented local youth who have auditioned

to be part of this special orchestra throughout the year. They will also perform a combined piece with the YS Symphony.

A special feature of this year's concert will be two dance performances by the Yuba City Youth Ballet Performance Group. They will be performing a ballet that they will present in various ballet competitions including a national competition in Florida in April.

Corey Kersting, conductor of the YS Symphony, states, "It is always a privilege to be able to present this concert. These talented young people deserve this opportunity to share their music with a full orchestra. We are also very pleased, for the first time ever, to welcome the Yuba City Youth Ballet to our concert! This will definitely be an inspiring and memorable concert!"

The concert is free, but donations will be accepted.

For further information about this press release contact Chris Kersting at bkersting@att.net or 701-1325 or Corey Kersting at 530 301-7265. ★

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Allie Stockmal, violinist. Photo courtesy of YS Symphony



Mykah Williams will play the French Horn. Photo courtesy of YS Symphony



Amelia Martin, violinist. Photo courtesy of YS Symphony



Johanna Riffel will play the viola. Photo courtesy of YS Symphony



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Lady Huskies' Season Ends in PK's

Story and photos by Steven Bryla

SUTTER, CA (MPG) - The 2023-24 Sutter Union girls soccer program made significant strides as a family from the beginning of the year till their season ended on Saturday, February 10, as they lost in the first round of the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division V playoffs to Summerville. Coming into the season, Sutter Head Coach Tim Danna had a goal of changing the culture of the program and expressed to the Dispatch it needed to be done. In the few short months of being at the helm of the program, you clearly see the family dynamic all around. Prior to the playoff game last Saturday, the girls all got together and surprised their coaches at home the night before the game to show their appreciation for what they all did throughout the year and

made it a year to remember senior midfielders Ashanti Madrigal and Bri Lopez told the Dispatch.

"They've done so much for us and changed the program for the better, so we just wanted to show how much we appreciated them," Madrigal said.

The home visits paid were with confetti, streamers, laughs, plastic balls and cheese sticks. The coaches had a sign on the ground at their doorstep that stated "Say Cheese, we're going to PLAYOFFS."

"There is no greater feeling you can get as a coach," Danna said.

Lopez told the Dispatch it was the least they could do as a team and the senior class due to the fact that they made their senior night special outright, sending them out on a good note with all of the team memories they made this season, which included the team dinners, parties

and field memories.

Sutter and Summerville were deadlocked at a 0-0 tie at the end of regulation, and both teams had opportunities to score, but nothing was able to squeak through the phenomenal play of both squads.

Madrigal told the Dispatch that they left it all on the field and it wasn't their day. She added they were successful with clearing the ball and pushing it up the field to the front line.

Lopez said to the Dispatch that they relied on one another well on the field.

"There were times where we could have gotten frustrated and argued with one another; we kept our composure and made sure we gave it our all until that last whistle," Lopez said.

That last whistle came after two 10-minute periods of extra time were played and the game was still scoreless, so the



Sutter senior midfielder/center back Ashanti Madrigal (9) looks to cross the ball back into the middle of the field in the Lady Huskies' loss to Summerville in the first round of the CIF SJS D-V playoffs on Saturday, February 10.



Sutter senior Ashanti Madrigal (9) goes for the ball against Summerville freshman Emmie Higgins (9) in the Lady Huskies' defeat on Saturday, February 10, in the first round of the CIF SJS D-V playoffs.

deciding factor of the game came down to penalty kicks.

Summerville won the best-of-five round (4-2) and moved onto the second round of the playoffs.

Postgame, Danna expressed to the Dispatch that he wasn't mad or sad at the result of the game, but it was that the group was no longer going to be spending more time on the field with one another.

"Our cheer from the beginning of the season

was family; they bought into it and it's been established," Danna said.

Although Madrigal and Lopez's time with the lady Huskies ended Saturday, the legacy/mark they left on the program didn't.

Madrigal said she left the aggressiveness factor and giving-it-everything-you-have attitude within the program while Lopez said giving it everything you have and make it as far as you can.

Danna told the Dispatch the senior class of 2024's legacy left an impact that the family culture, and being a part of the girls soccer program is something the students would want to do now.

"They wanted to be part of this program because it is a family; new friendships were created that weren't there before and outside of winning games. We established new traditions that people want to be a part of." ★

RV Sends Seniors Out with Win, SJS Playoffs Brackets Released

Story and photos by Steven Bryla

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The River Valley girls basketball team ended their season and sent the Lady Falcons' two seniors off with a victory over their crosstown rival in the Yuba City Honkers with a 36-23 victory on Thursday, February 8.

River Valley took a commanding 24-5 lead in the first half and didn't let Yuba City get inside double-digits once they got up.

Although the scoring leaders for the Lady Falcons were led by junior forward Avneeth Gill (9), junior forward Claudia Dudek (8) and junior guard Gurleen Nijjar (8), the spotlight was on senior forwards Allison Byrne and Tanvi Joshi.

River Valley head coach Thomas Zaragoza told the Dispatch that Joshi and Byrne left their mark on

the program for the players in the years to come.

Zaragoza said Joshi's leadership throughout the year was the core leader of the team and Byrne's dedication and the unselfishness she displayed for whatever it took to get a victory.

Joshi expressed to the Dispatch that she felt special because of the celebration she has played with her teammates through the years and was grateful for their families who continuously support them.

Byrne told the Dispatch that she didn't like the attention on her, but she appreciated it and had more fun celebrating after and getting the win.

Joshi said she hopes the players for next season keep working together and play hard.

"Keep working hard, don't give up and keep playing as a team," Joshi said.

Byrne added that she wants the girls to keep a positive attitude towards the game. "Attitude is a huge part of the game and I hope they (2024-25 Lady Falcons) take away our composure on how we (her and Joshi) were on the court," Byrne said.

Yuba City loses four seniors to graduation this upcoming spring including Kirpa Bains, Sophia Arden, Mia Beltran and Josie Carrick.

Lady Honkers Assistant Coach Caitlyn Kenny told the Dispatch that the senior players showed a lot of will and grit throughout the game.

She added that they progressed throughout the year from the beginning, and the impact they left on the program is being good role models.

"They showed leadership at practice and off the court and showed the younger girls the ropes of



River Valley senior forward Tanvi Joshi (34) puts the ball up towards the basket in the Lady Falcons' 36-23 victory on Thursday, February 8, over Yuba City.

basketball," Kenny said.

She added the impact they had on the three freshman players for Yuba City and that they were older sisters to them.

CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Playoffs

The boys' and girls' basketball teams from Marysville, Sutter Union and Faith Christian High School made it into the California Interscholastic Federation basketball playoffs as the brackets were released on Saturday, February 10.

The Marysville boys basketball team was given the No. 12 seed in the Division IV bracket and traveled to Escalon on Tuesday evening. The Indians had a three-game winning streak heading into the first round of the playoffs and finished the second half of Pioneer Valley League play 5-2.

The Sutter boys basketball team was handed the No. 11 seed in the Division

IV playoff bracket and played Tuesday night in Orangevale at Casa Roble. The Huskies beat Casa Roble on Dec. 19, 2023 in a tight 70-66 battle. The Huskies' 18 regular-season win total this season tied their highest in program history since the 2009-10 season.

The Faith Christian boys basketball team was the eighth seed in the Division VI bracket and hosted Vacaville Christian Tuesday evening as they were one of the two first round games played in the Division VI bracket. The winner of the game traveled down near Merced and played at Stone Ridge Christian in the second round.

The Marysville girls basketball team was given the No. 2 in the Division IV bracket as the co-Pioneer Valley League champions. This was the first league title the Lady Indians have won since

1975 and hosted the winner of Dixon/Venture Academy (Stockton) on Tuesday night. This was the third consecutive 20-plus win season for Marysville Head Coach Ike Prince.

The Sutter girls basketball team also made the playoffs for the Division IV bracket and was the No. 13 seed and traveled to the Riverbank, who was the 2023 CIF SJS Division IV runner-up. This is the second consecutive year Sutter has made the SJS playoffs with a .500 regular season and league record.

The Faith Christian girls basketball team was given the first overall seed in the Division VI bracket for the second consecutive year. Faith Christian was given a first round bye and played the winner of Vacaville Christian/Stockton Christian. The Lady Lions had an eight-game win streak heading into their game last night. ★



Sutter senior forward Jagger Beck (14) puts a shot up in the Huskies' 51-48 victory over Marysville on January 24.