



Gridley Titans Youth Football Roundup

PAGE 15

Homecoming Heartbreak for Biggs

PAGE 12



THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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SEE INSIDE

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PAGE 5

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Let's Ride! Biggs Bike Bus on a Roll



The first Biggs Bike Bus ride on Oct. 2 had more than 60 riders, and the Oct. 9 ride had more than 80 riders.

Story by Seti Long and photos by Hollie Byers

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - A different way to get to school has emerged in the quiet town of Biggs and locals are loving it.

Biggs resident Hollie Byers had the creative idea of bringing a Biggs Bike Bus to the community as a way to get kids active and excited to go to school.

The response has been phenomenal.

The weekly organized bike rides have quickly gained the attention

of community members, who have wholeheartedly supported the movement.

"I get emotional thinking about how quickly this passion project took off and how much support I've gotten from this wonderful community," Byers said. "As a teacher at Biggs Elementary, I'm always looking for new ways to engage my students and build relationships with them. Bike Bus has helped students get to school happy and ready to learn and that means I've achieved my goal."

How it works: The bike bus starts at 7 a.m. at a

designated location. It then follows a specific course through town, picking up bikers along the way as they head to their final destination on B Street: Biggs Elementary School.

Details about the Biggs Bike Bus are shared through their Facebook page, including routes, dates, times and pick-up points.

Byers reported to the community in a Facebook post that their first official ride on Oct. 2 had more than 60 riders.

The Biggs Bike Bus has continued to gain momentum, and participants,

Continued on page 6

New Software to Help Gridley Recreation

By Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Three new city employees were introduced at the Oct. 7 Gridley City Council meeting: Pamela Roberts, administrative secretary, Amanda Kaelin, recreation coordinator, and Jason Garringer, police lieutenant. All three were commended for the contributions they have already made to the community.

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Brenda O'Brien, PGE Government Affairs representative, introduced herself to City Council and city Administrator Elisa Arteaga said that she looked forward to working with O'Brien.

City attorney Tony Galyean gave an update on the Virginia Street cleanup.

The 110 Virginia St. owners have not responded, despite numerous attempts to contact them, according to Galyean, so the city will proceed with the lawsuit of Health and Safety Code Receivership previously agreed upon by City Council. All the property taxes, as well as cleanup costs, will be charged to the owners, and become a lien against the property.

On the other hand, the property owner of 390 Virginia St. has cooperated, according to city officials. The owner's contractor and engineer obtained permits to demolish the building but have since decided that only the tower needs to be removed.

Gridley Finance Director Martin Pineda provided details on the proposed investment agreement with Meeder Investment Group, a firm that will invest city funds. The fee for the service will be .10% of the total amount of city funds invested. Currently, the funds are not earning interest but could earn interest if invested in low-risk bonds or Certificates of Deposit, according to Pineda. Daily monitoring of the investments would be part of the contract. The Meeder Investment Group is contracted by other communities nearby, such as Paradise. Authorization would also be needed for Arteaga to allocate the funds.

The council voted unanimously in favor of the agreement, with the addition of a monthly report.

Pineda expressed the need for software to benefit the recreation department. He presented a PowerPoint

Continued on page 3

Sheriff Honea: 'Yes' on Measure H, Prop. 36

By Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea discussed during the Oct. 10 Gridley Rotary Club weekly meeting why he wants voters to support Measure H in the Nov. 5 General Election.

Measure H is the Sales Tax Increase Measure, according to the Voter Information Guide. Butte County will add one cent on the dollar for purchases of personal property such as vehicles. It will not affect the cost of groceries or gasoline.

Honea began his presentation by saying he had "bad news to share" about Butte County's fiscal dilemma. Because Proposition 13 placed limits on property taxes, Honea said, there has not been enough revenue to keep pace with the increasing costs of providing critical services over the years.

Butte County has a budget of nearly a billion dollars, Honea said. Eighty-five percent of that money comes from the state and federal governments and those funds must be spent according to federal and state mandates. The remaining 15% is the General Fund, over which the county supervisors have discretion. Providing public services and funding the library system take up the largest portion of the 15%, according to Honea.

While the costs of services and running the library have continued to increase, according to Honea, the property tax revenue has not. The biggest budget cuts have been to the library. Gridley Public Library is



Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea makes a pitch for Measure H at Gridley Rotary Club. Photo courtesy Butte County Sheriff

open only three days a week, compared to Chico that has the longest hours and open five days per week in the county. Chico has chosen to subsidize that, Honea said.

There is currently a Prison Literacy Support program where the Sheriff has library staff help illiterate inmates at Butte County Jail learn to read and write, with the hope of reducing the number of repeat offenders. Additional funding is necessary to

continue the program, which almost everyone at the Rotary meeting agreed is worthwhile.

The General Fund's services include the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department and the Fire Department.

"The county has tried for decades to maintain those services as adequately as possible but we're now at a point

Continued on page 3

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

This week, the Pi-Line emanates from Congressman Doug LaMalfa of Richvale: Congressman Doug LaMalfa’s 2024 Election Recommendations: Candidates - Donald Trump - President, Steve Garvey - U.S. Senate, Tenessa Audette - Assembly District 1, James Gallagher - Assembly District 3, Megan Dahle - State Senate

Butte County, Chuck Reynolds – Oroville City Council, District C, Scott Thomson - Oroville City Council, District D, Mike O’Brien – Chico City Council District 1, Dale Bennett – Chico City Council District 3, Melissa Lopez-Mora – Chico City Council District 5, Deepika Tandon – Chico City Council District 7, Ray Sehorn - Oroville Union High School District, Area 1

Shasta County, Greg Watkins- Shasta Lake City Council, Stan Neutze - Anderson City Council

Yuba- Sutter John Cassidy - Yuba Community College District 4, Toni Cole - Yuba City Council, District 5, Chris Branscum – Marysville Mayor, Codi Walker - Marysville City Council, Lisa McIntosh - Wheatland City Council, Nancy Santana - Live Oak City Council

Propositions Prop 2 – Oppose – School Bonds Issues \$10 billion dollars in State School Bonds - Our state is spending record amounts and taxing everything. Taking out more bonds when interest rates are high, and our State has a poor credit rating is a really bad idea. More bonds lead to more taxes, which is murder on

family incomes. Prop 3 - Oppose - The Repeal of Prop 8 The voters passed Prop 8 and Proposition 22 defining traditional marriage. Yet twice, the courts stole our votes from us; first by forcing us to vote on it a second time. Then, retroactively redefining an amendment to the constitution as a “revision,” invalidating our voice. This proposition is so poorly written it may legalize polygamy, child marriage, incestuous marriage, and even allowing parents marrying their children for tax purposes. Prop 4 – Oppose – Park Bonds Issues \$10 billion in bonds for more under-managed parks, fake and expensive “green” energy, and environmental spending. We can’t afford more debt for corrupt state projects we don’t want. Remember High-Speed Rail? See Prop 2. Prop 5 – Oppose – Reducing the threshold to pass local bonds. Lowers yet another vote threshold from two-thirds to 55%, this time for local bond measures to fund housing projects and public infrastructure. The 2/3 vote helps hold spenders accountable and forces them to devise better projects to be approved. We don’t need to make it easier for them to tax us more through local bonds. No. Prop 6 – Oppose – Unnecessary “Involuntary Servitude” ban. Removes “involuntary servitude” as punishment for a crime from the state constitution. Prison should be a corrective measure that makes criminals never want to return, and work programs can help them learn responsibility and earn “good time.” Being soft on criminals obviously isn’t working. Prop 32 – Oppose – Increases the minimum wage. Increases minimum wage to \$18/hr – Do you love inflation? Or kiosk-only retail? Increasing the minimum wage will get us two things – more inflation and less employment. Vote NO. Prop 33 - Oppose - Rent Control. Repeals Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act – allowing for a giant expansion of rent control. If you want to see housing

shortages get much, much worse and homes much more expensive, this is the way to do it. Building of all types slows where rent control is imposed. Prop 34 – SUPPORT – Stopping taxpayer funds from being used for politics. Requires health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug program directly on patient care. One activist group in LA is using its healthcare money to push political issues such as rent control rather than provide discount drugs. They are financing Prop 33 above. They should use their funds as intended for reducing the cost of drugs rather than siphoning the money to their political ambitions. Prop 35 – SUPPORT – Keeping Sacramento from stealing hospital money. Stops the state from raiding hospital funding that pays for Medi-Cal programs. This is not a tax increase. Hospitals are trying to prevent the Democrats in the legislature from stealing the money they put up to match federal dollars to pay for Medi-Cal from being siphoned away into the abyss of the state general fund. Prop 36 - VOTE YES!!! – Make Crime Illegal Again. Restores penalties for rampant theft convictions and forces drug-addicted offenders to get clean or face prison time, plus holds fentanyl dealers accountable. I enthusiastically support Prop 36. I collected signatures for it and have held several campaign events for it. It makes crime illegal again and will reclassify the massive retail theft as a felony again, as well as go after fentanyl dealers and force drug addicts into treatment. If you are tired of the massive break-ins and hordes of smash-and-grab crime plaguing our state, this is the first big step to fix it.

Doug LaMalfa, a farmer, graduated from the California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and was recognized as an outstanding Alumni of Butte College. ★

An Amazing Dia!

Dia Del Campesino



Dedicated members of the Hispanic Resource Council of Northern California and fellow volunteers from partner agencies responsible for organizing a successful Dia Del Campesino celebrate a successful event. Photo provided by Reyna Nolta

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - On Sunday Oct. 6, the Hispanic Resource Council of Northern California (HRCNC) hosted Dia Del Campesino in Gridley’s Daddow Park.

Dia Del Campesino, or “day of the farmer” celebrates the workers that have played essential roles in agriculture.

According to President Reyna Nolta of the HRCNC, the HRCNC was founded in 1983 and held the first Dia Del Campesino in the region back in 1988.

Gridley has not hosted the event for some time, mostly due to restrictions the COVID pandemic put on public events. The event now rotates between being held in Chico, Hamilton City and Gridley on a three-year cycle.

Nolta shares that her team’s health and general resource services are offered to the community, and “at the same time have a beautiful day with cultural food, music and clean fun for the whole family.” Nolta said.

This year Gridley was treated to exactly that, including traditional dance performances, a visit from a member of the Mexican Consulate and a free

vaccination clinic provided by Orchard Hospital.

The Council worked with partners Si Se Puede, Far Northern Regional Center and the United Way to bring Dia Del Campesino to the Gridley community this year. Special thanks to the Sikh Center who funded and administered free COVID vaccines and Orchard Hospital for the flu vaccinations – all of which were free to the public.

Correction - In the Oct. 4, edition of the Gridley Herald, the article “Community Shows Gratitude for Dia Del Campesino” credited the wrong organizations and/or persons with the organization of the event. The Herald would like to clarify that Dia Del Campesino was brought to the Gridley community by the Hispanic Resource Council of Northern California, Si Se Puede, the Far Northern Regional Center and the United way and its numerous in-kind donations made this day possible. Although there was support from many volunteers, members of those agencies were the driving force for the event's success in the community. ★

Arrest Made for Transportation of Fentanyl in Oroville



Pictured here is the evidence found with Arbayo and Hensley, according to the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force. Photo courtesy of Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force

Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force agents developed information that fentanyl was being trafficked into the Oroville area by 29-year-old Karl Anthony Arbayo. Through investigation and the legal process, Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force obtained a search warrant for Arbayo and his vehicle.

On Oct. 4, at approximately 3 a.m., Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force Agents, assisted by the Special Enforcement Unit of the Butte County Sheriff’s Office, conducted a traffic enforcement stop on a car being driven by Arbayo on Highway 70, north of Palermo Road. Arbayo complied and stopped his vehicle, according to the task force, and Arbayo and a passenger, 36-year-old Kyle

Lee Hensley, along with an adult female, were all safely detained.

Agents then searched the vehicle pursuant to the search warrant. Agents discovered more than a quarter pound of fentanyl in the vehicle’s trunk and cocaine in the center console, according to the task force. Specifically, agents found and seized 139 grams of fentanyl (gross), 13 grams of cocaine (gross), packaging material and cell phones, according to the task force.

Arbayo was arrested and transported to the Butte County Jail for transportation of fentanyl and cocaine for purposes of sales and possession of fentanyl and cocaine for purposes of sales.

Hensley was found to be in possession of a small amount of fentanyl, according to the task force. He was also arrested and transported to the Butte County Jail.

This remains an active investigation. ★



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Sheriff Honea: ‘Yes’ on Measure H, Prop. 36’

Continued from page 1
where they can no longer continue to not cut into public safety because of the revenue gap we are talking about," the sheriff said.

The dilemma consists of two bad options, according to Honea: either raise sales tax on consumers or cut public safety services already in place. The need for public safety services will continue to increase, according to the sheriff.

Honea said that he was forced to cut 22 positions in the Sheriff's Department in the last fiscal year. "Right now," Honea said, "I have fewer and fewer deputies to respond to calls."

The "Designated Area Deputy" program, where a deputy was assigned to work in a specific area, was cut due to budget shortfalls, according to Honea.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office "matters to Gridley," Honea said, and is "frequently needed to work cooperatively within Gridley and other city limits as well."

Referring to the 2022 Oroville Greyhound bus shooting, Honea said that the city of Oroville needed the assistance of the Sheriff's Office, because of the situation's magnitude. Furthermore, if a Gridley Police officer makes an arrest, the suspect is taken to Butte County Jail, which Honea operates. Honea said that there are currently 20 open jobs in the Sheriff's department and "deputies are working multiple mandatory over-time shifts... Eventually, those people are going to give out. They're going to start making mistakes. They're going to get tired."

Butte County is in the process of building an additional jail facility expected to be completed next year. Some residents question why a new jail facility is being built when there are not enough employees to staff the existing jail. Honea explained that in 2011, California began sending prison inmates referred to as non-serious, non-sex related, convicted felons



Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea, right, smiles with Gridley Rotary Club president, Lynne Spencer. Courtesy photo

to county prisons. But many of them, according to Honea, have significant drug addiction, mental and medical health issues, as well as being more criminally sophisticated and disruptive.

Currently, there are not enough medical beds available for the demand, Honea said. The existing jail has three medical beds; the new one will have 38.

Moreover, the Sheriff's Office plays a major role in handling large-scale disasters, such as the Camp Fire.

Honea said that the District Attorney's office is understaffed to the point that each Deputy District Attorney handles a case-load of 450. As a result, a new misdemeanor policy is in place. Those cases are not reviewed until the suspect's third offense. There simply are not enough staff members to handle all the cases, according to Honea.

Proposition 36 allows felony charges and increases sentences for certain drug and theft crimes, according to the Official Voter Information Guide.

Proposition 36, which Honea supports, will increase the penalties for theft- and drug-related crimes, including possible

murder charges for drug dealers. However, without Measure H, there will not be enough revenue to enforce it, Honea said.

Honea said that the Probation Department "is also woefully understaffed, with officers resorting to phone calls for checking in with probationers."

When CAL FIRE dips into the reservoir to fight a fire, each trip costs several thousand dollars, according to Honea. Some residents argue that fire stations in remote areas are not necessary. However, during the Camp Fire, a fire engine in a remote area slowed the fire's progress by two hours, which "bought precious time" for Honea and others evacuating Paradise residents. Additional funding that Measure H could provide will help keep fire equipment in the outlying areas, such as Pulga and Bangor.

If passed, Measure H would add a 1% sales tax on tangible, personal property items such as new cars purchased from a retailer. The tax is expected to bring in \$44-million annually. Unlike federal and state supplied funds, the county will have discretion as to how the funds are used. ★

Gridley Unified Sued in Butte County Court

By MPG Staff

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - According to an Oct. 15 court filing with the Butte County Superior Court, the Gridley Unified School District along with former teacher, Michelle Christine Solis, are being sued by a John Doe plaintiff.

The suit stems from an incident between former Sycamore Junior High School teacher Solis and one of her students in 2021. That incident resulted in Solis pleading guilty to one count of sex with a minor and being sentenced to the maximum of four years in state prison on July 18,

2024.

The Complaint for Damages filed with the court alleges three Cause of Actions. The first Cause of Action alleges sexual assault of a minor by Solis. The second Cause of Action alleges negligent hiring, supervision and/or retention of Solis by school district employees. The third Cause of Action alleges negligent supervision of plaintiff by district employees.

The complaint identifies that the plaintiff is seeking relief for general damages, punitive damages, legal costs and other relief the court may deem fit and proper. ★

Happy 150th!

By Seti Long

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, Oct. 19, Biggs Methodist Church in Biggs invites the community to join them in celebration.

This coming weekend marks the 150th anniversary of the Biggs United Methodist Church.

The event begins at 1 p.m. at the historic church at 441 C St., Biggs.

The public is welcome to enjoy refreshments, tours of the building, history of the church's establishment and most excitingly, the opening of a time capsule buried 50 years prior.

Christian Life Invites Community to Harvest Festival

By Cindy Scott

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Christian Life Assembly invites everyone to join the fun at their Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a costume contest, games, candy, and more. ★

All activities and refreshments are free, and all community members are welcome to join in the fun. Please see the Christian Life Assembly Facebook page for more information. The church is located at 1526 Humble Ave., off East Gridley Road in Gridley. ★

Let's Ride! Biggs Bike Bus on a Roll



Butte County Sheriff's Office provided an escort for the group of students biking to school to ensure safety.

Continued from page 1
as they rolled into International Walk & Roll Day on Oct. 9. A group of more than 80 children, accompanied by adults and a Butte County Sheriff's Office escort, rolled up to Biggs Elementary School, excited and smiling after riding their bikes together through town.

Since then, Community Service Officer Moreland from the Butte County Sheriff's Office has acted as an escort for the group, keeping drivers away and participants safe while they travel to school.

Riders are required to wear helmets and many in the group wear reflective safety gear. Accommodations have also been made for the more inexperienced riders or those with training wheels.

The group has been featured on the local news channel "Action News Now" and has been the focus of a video created by the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

Unfortunately, not all



The Biggs Bike Bus was started as a way to get kids active and excited for school.

children who would like to participate have the necessary equipment. There is a need for gently used bicycles and helmets so all students can have the opportunity to join the

Bike Bus. Donations can be made by contacting jfaltesek@biggs.org.

Byers thanks the community for making her small dream a reality and a huge success. ★

New Software to Help Gridley Recreation

Continued from page 1
detailing the potential benefits of the Activenet program.

Because much of the paperwork for sports registration of 485 children is done manually, there have been some errors. Just one example is lost paper applications, causing confusion on the first day of practice. In addition, accurate records are important, due to medical needs and food allergies that are listed on the application.

With the new software, all the registration, including payments, could be handled online. Scheduling would be streamlined as well.

There was some discussion of mandatory training for coaches. Pineda indicated that there is a website for coaches.

Total cost for the Activenet program is \$10,455. Voting was unanimous by the council to purchase it for the benefit of the Gridley Recreation Department.

A review was made of several ordinances pertaining to military equipment being held by the Gridley Police

Department. The council voted to keep the ordinances unchanged.

Butte County has emergency VEOCI software especially designed for disaster management, according to Arteaga. Some advantages are on-the-minute disaster updates, including road closure, and a direct connection to the Butte County Emergency Operation Center. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be in effect until Aug. 31, 2027. Costs will be \$729.19 for year one, \$803 for year two and \$765.65 for year three.

The council voted to accept the memorandum of understanding terms.

Councilmember J Angel Calderon and Fire Chief Chip Fowler both shared details of their recent trip to Comala, Mexico, Gridley's sister city. They visited two coffee farms and a museum featuring local artwork. In addition, they attended a brainstorming session, where Calderon attended the cultural/educational group, and Fowler was in the education and training exchange group. ★

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A Walk for the Less Fortunate

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - In an effort to aid those who are in need, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Gridley is organizing a Friends of the Poor Walk. The event is non-denom-inational with all proceeds staying within the com-munities of Biggs, Gridley and Live Oak to aid those in need. The goal is to bring

awareness of neighbors who are suffering and help stabilize them. St. Vincent de Paul helps residents meet their basic needs of food, utilities, food and more. This inaugural Walk for the Poor will be held Saturday, Oct. 26. You can join the cause by walking and gathering pledges or by making a donation. The group will meet at

8:30 a.m. Oct. 26 at the Sacred Heart Paris Hall, 1561 Hazel St., Gridley. A one-mile loop through town is planned with refreshments to be served afterwards. Checks can be made payable to St. Vincent de Paul Gridley Conference and mailed to P.O. Box 668, Gridley. For more information, contact Sara Marquez at 530-755-7991. ★

Silence at the Disco

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A unique event is coming to Gridley this Friday and although it’s pretty quiet, it’s something to get excited about. Electric Sound DJ’s, Black Noise and the Gridley Rotary Club present the Silent Disco. This all-ages event will be held Friday, Oct. 18 at the Butte County Fairgrounds’ Butte Hall. Each participant will be provided with headphones to tune into one of three dif-ferent DJs playing different types of music.

Whether it’s Top 40, country or Latin, there is sure to be something for everyone. Don’t like the song? Simply tune into one of the other DJs for a moment. Rotary members will be there to sat-isfy any hunger pangs with snack-bar style foods: hotdogs, nachos, drinks and more will be available for purchase. Funds raised will be used for the Rotary Scholarships available to area students (see a Rotary member for details on how to apply). The Silent Disco starts at 8 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m. on Friday night. Tickets can be purchased online at Eventbrite.com for \$7 or at the door for \$15. ★

Online Predator from Fairfield Pleads to Child Molest and Child Pornography Charges

Butte County District Attorney’s Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A 21-year-old Fairfield man pleaded guilty in court Sept. 25 to two charges stemming from his online actions involving a then 10-year-old Butte County girl in 2022. Ethan James Alfonso, 21, of Fairfield, pleaded guilty in Butte County Superior Court Sept. 25 to one count of child moles-tation for his remotely directing a 10-year-old girl to disrobe and touch

herself while on a com-puter chat program with him. He also pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child por-nography stemming from his contact and download-ing of photos and videos of the girl. Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Alfonso met the girl on Roblox, a worldwide gaming platform. He chat-ted with the girl over their computers during gaming sessions. Their conver-sations then moved to Discord, a chat and mes-saging program. During

their conversations, Alfonso was made aware of the girl’s age but none-theless persuaded the girl to create and send him nude photographs and videos of herself. At one point, Alfonso made threats to the minor that he would release the nude images to the internet if she did not continue to supply him with more. The girl, however, finally told her mother what was happening and the mother reported it to the Chico Police. Ramsey said Chico police detectives

investigated the digital footprint left by Alfonso and eventually traced him to Fairfield. The Chico detectives, along with the Fairfield Police detectives, served a search warrant and arrest warrant in Fairfield on July 7, 2022. At that time, Alfonso was appre-hended and transported to the Butte County Jail. The case was filed by the Butte County District Attorney’s Office in July of 2022 but was pro-longed for several years when the defense claimed that Alfonso was men-tally incompetent to stand

trial. In June of this year, Alfonso was found com-petent to stand trial on the underlying charges by a jury, whose sole purpose was to determine whether or not Alfonso was compe-tent. Alfonso subsequently pleaded guilty Sept. 25 in court. Ramsey noted this case highlights a very real dan-ger that lurks for children behind every gaming and chat service where they can interact with strang-ers. Ramsey said it was clear in his messages to the young girl that Alfonso subtly “groomed” her for

a few weeks before taking advantage of her immatu-rity and gullibility. Ramsey cautioned that crimes of this nature often progress quickly and can spin out of control for the victims just as fast. Alfonso has been held in custody at the Butte County Jail since July 2022 in lieu of \$700,000 bail. His next court date and sentencing is sched-uled for Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 9:30 a.m., where he faces a maximum term under the law of eight years and eight months in state prison. ★



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Warren Buffett

Warren Buffett, the 90 plus year old iconic investor known as the Oracle of Omaha, and CEO and Founder of the investment holding company Berkshire Hathaway, sold 60% of his shares in one of his favorite holdings Apple. Once own-ing a whopping one billion shares, he now owns 400 million shares. Buffett also reduced another longtime holding, Bank of America. His company is now hold-ing a record amount of cash and cash like investments and one has to wonder what Buffett sees or is thinking about the stock markets. Buffett’s right hand man Ajit Jain, who has been with Buffett since 1986 and is his top investment officer is also making notable stock market sells himself, having sold Berkshire shares to the tune of 139 million. It is said insider buy stocks when they think markets are good and sell stocks when they fear bad things are afoot. True, not all insider sells are due to market conditions. Sometimes it might be to raise money for a home or what-ever, but Buffett and Jain’s sells are major stock dumps entailing massive amounts of money. It isn’t because they are buying some real estate. Not sells at these levels. Keep in mind Buffett, his company and Jain, his top guy, all follow the CEO’s strategy of buying great businesses and holding them “forever” as Buffett has said many times. So why has forever ended? At least when it comes to these recent large sells? Buffett holds and has held for quite some time large amounts of Treasury Bills. These T-Bills, as they are com-monly called, are U.S. Government debt issuances, regarded as risk free as to the principal if held to maturity and have been yielding up to 5% or more annually because of the recent Federal Reserve’s interest rate hikes. Not a bad return for the staunch investor

that Buffett is known to be. Plus 5% yield is nothing to sneeze at. But selling these solid companies that B of A and Apple are known to be, you have to wonder what Buffett and Jain are afraid of. Stocks are wildly over valued by more than one standard metric. Stansberry Research Digest newsletters notes that 19 valuation models are stretched into territory, which when measured by these metrics, are the highest they have ever been. This means stocks are the most expen-sive they have ever been. Note that markets are rarely predict-able even when historical precedents are widely out of whack. It is said what is low can go lower and what seems too high can go even higher. And this is especially true where stock markets are concerned. Being the sum of all the beliefs of the billions of investors in the market at any one time, much like a flock of swallows or a herd of buffalo, its direction is impossible to discern. One might be wise however, to at least consider the movements of large and notable investors like Warren Buffett and the like and note historical precedents as they pertain stock prices when evaluating where the markets might go and what, if any movements, should be made in their own portfolios. “*Watching the markets so you don’t have to*” This article expresses the opinion of Marc Cuniberti and is not meant as invest-ment advice, or a recommendation to buy or sell any securities, nor represents the opinion of any bank, investment firm or RIA, nor this media outlet, its staff, members or underwriters. Mr. Cuniberti holds a B.A. in Economics with honors, 1979, and California Insurance License #0L34249 His insurance agency is BAP INC. insurance services. Email: news@moneymanagementradio.com ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“**JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX**” **RATED R** For starters, it might serve well to recall the origin story for Joaquin Phoenix’s Arthur Fleck, aka the Joker, from the 2019 film in which his alter ego was the titular character who made it known that what he had were “negative thoughts.” “Joker” presented such a whole picture of Arthur Fleck’s failed comedian, humili-ated on a TV show run by Robert De Niro’s host, and day job as a clown who felt mar-ginalized by society, that his complete decline to psychosis and criminal master-mind wrapped up his story to a satisfactory conclusion. The lure of creating a possible franchise (just ask the movers behind the James Bond films) is irresistible. After all, there is a connection, tangential or more, of Arthur Fleck’s Joker to Batman, but drawing the linkage won’t be attempted here in any sig-nificant way. However, in Christopher Nolan’s 2008 “The Dark Knight” a despicable criminal calling himself the Joker (Heath Ledger) turns Gotham City into such a chaotic mess that Christian Bale’s Batman’s efforts to clean up the city causes many to won-der if the caped crusader is more vigilante than hero. Arguably, director Todd Phillips may have set out with “Joker” and now the “Folie A Deux” to build upon Nolan’s darker vision of this comic book world where a criminal mastermind was known for terrorizing the citizens of Gotham City, and to that end he seems to succeed. Arthur Fleck is now in Arkham Asylum where he is awaiting trial for his crimes for killing several people, while also struggling with his dual identity and stumbling upon what he believes is true love with Lady Gaga’s Harley Quinn. Even though he is a maximum-security prisoner, Arthur is allowed to join a music group in prison where he meets fellow inmate Lady Gaga’s Lee Quinzel, who later becomes Harley Quinn (seems like every-one morphs into a dual personality). Not surprisingly, with Joker made more complex with the notion that there’s music coming from inside him, along with Lady Gaga’s trailblazing musical career, it’s no wonder that there are so many musical numbers, which ostensibly detract from what’s really a horror show. Enamored with the Joker’s persona, Lee/ Harley and Arthur strike up a musical rela-tionship as they sing duets in the prison harmonic group, at least until an incendiary

event brings that to an end. Once outside prison, Harley Quinn is the femme fatale for Joker that is almost a cin-ematic cliché, but she does go to bat for him in many ways, injecting herself into the legal proceedings. Lady Gaga is nicely compelling in a role casting her as a force of nature. In the courtroom, young District Attorney Harvey Dent (Harry Lawtey) pushes for trying Arthur on five counts of first-degree murder, while defense attor-ney Maryanne Stewart (Catherine Keener) argues the shopworn insanity plea based on his split personality disorder. Brendan Gleeson acquires himself effec-tively as nasty prison guard Jackie Sullivan, who oddly turns out to have a soft spot by allowing Arthur to join the prison’s singing group. We have him to thank for a sur-feit of unnecessary and intrusive musical numbers. Both Joaquin Phoenix, as the Joker in the 2019 film, and the late Heath Ledger, in the role of the Joker in 2008’s “The Dark Knight,” received Academy Awards for their roles, the former as Best Actor and the latter a posthumous Best Supporting Actor. There is unlikely to be a second Academy Award, much less a nomination, in the off-ing for Joaquin Phoenix, even though he has been nominated in the past for other roles. “Joker: Folie A Deux” may prove to be such dead weight as to sink any consid-eration this time. For director Todd Phillips, who was nominated for Best Director, the “Joker” marked a milestone in achievement for a film nominated in almost a dozen cate-gories that raked in more than \$1 billion at the worldwide box office. Given the pedigree of “Joker,” where the audience rating on Rotten Tomatoes was so high that if it was graded like a term paper it was earning nothing less than an A-, you would think a second turn is going to be worth a look, and for some that may be the case. Notwithstanding the plethora of with-ering negative reviews of this sequel, the urge to see the film, based on experi-ence with the original, may outweigh any reservations. Admittedly, there are posi-tive reviews, so it is up to the filmgoer to decide whether to trek to a theater or wait for streaming. Analytically, one can look at the end-ing of “Joker: Folie A Deux” as closure for the story of a madman so unhinged and detached from reality that continuing his story would be an affront to the world of DC Comics and an annoyance to the legions of Batman fans. ★



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Messenger Publishing Group

Manzanita Gets Fired Up at Gridley Fire Department

CALFIRE/Butte County/ Gridley Fire Department News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - This week, Gridley Fire Station 74 kicked off Fire Prevention Week by hosting Amanda McClellan's transitional kindergarten class from Manzanita Elementary School.

Students had the opportunity to see all the tools and equipment that firefighters use every day, spray water and learn how to operate some specialized equipment.

Students then got a chance to sit in the firefighter's recliners and talk about fire safety with the personnel from the station.

As Fire Prevention Week continues, remember to always have a plan with your family in case of a fire and to always have two ways out of your home and bedroom. ★



Amanda McClellan's transitional kindergarten class from Manzanita Elementary School poses for a photo with a firetruck and firefighters. Photo courtesy of Gridley Fire Department

Free Family Birding Trip to Sacramento Wildlife Refuge in Willows

Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture News Release

WILLOWS, CA (MPG) - If you've ever seen the movie "The Big Year," then you know how crazed serious birders can in their efforts to see as many different bird species in a single year as possible.

For the past two years, Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture has sponsored a variety of outdoor experiences at no cost to local residents. The program has been made possible by a generous grant from the California Department of Arts and Recreation as part of its Outdoor Equity Program to get people outdoors and involved in a wide variety of activities.

Next up in our series of events is a gentle birding trip to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge in

Willows. Participants will be guided by an ornithologist, a science educator and an artist who will teach nature sketching and outdoor journaling.

Join the bird watching expedition on Saturday, Nov. 2. A charter bus to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge will depart from the Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture's office at 624 E St. in Marysville at 8:30 a.m.

Next stop will be the Wildlife Refuge's visitor center, followed by an easy two-mile walking tour led by our embedded ornithologist, artist and scientist. This will be followed by a six-mile auto tour including a stop for lunch, and an art session with artist Pam Nowak.

The bus will return to Marysville between 4 and 5 p.m. Please dress for variable weather,



Snow geese, among many other bird species, will be seen in Willows. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

as this trip will be held rain or shine. It is recommended to bring rain gear if there is a chance of rain, mud boots or hiking boots if it has been raining, and binoculars. Pack lunch, but snacks and water, as well as sketching and journaling supplies will be provided.

For those of you who plan to drive and meet us there, we will meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge visitor center at 752 County Road 99W, Willows at approximately 10:30 a.m.

All minors under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All participants must pre-register for the trip at yubasutterarts.org. Also, please note, this trip is restricted to residents of Yuba and Sutter counties. The outing, including transportation, is offered free of charge. However, there is a \$20 registration fee for all participants which will be refunded in cash on the day of the event. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anna Newman at (956) 525-2031.

So, what can participants expect to see? Every year millions of waterfowl migrate to the Central Valley in California

mainly for easy access to food. The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex is a hotspot destination for these birds. From October-January, there can easily be hundreds of thousands spending their winter at the Refuge. A few of the species recently spotted include Greater White-fronted Geese, Wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes, Greater Yellowlegs, Cooper's Hawks, Redtailed Hawks, Egrets, Great Blue Herons and other year-round residents. Tundra Swans will be arriving any day.

Why is access to outdoor activities important? Nature is a public good that's crucial

for adults as well as children's health and well-being. Scientists estimate that every \$1 spent on creating and maintaining park trails can save almost \$3 in health care alone. Additional studies show that access to parks and greenspace can increase children's physical activity, reduce stress in children and improve academic performance.

Announcements about further outdoor art adventures will be made later this fall. Be sure to pre-register for these programs at yubasutterarts.org or call 530-742-ARTS (2787). There will be an online trip preparation meeting prior to each outing. ★



Every year, millions of waterfowl migrate to California's Central Valley for easy access to food. Photo by Sue Graue



The free bird watching expedition will take place on Nov. 2. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Is there panic in Sactown? I certainly hope not, but there is concern. The concern emanates from three straight preseason losses and a disappointing 20-point loss to the Portland Trailblazers on the Kings home court.

The new starting lineup has been looking good but had an off night with the Trailblazers. My concern, however, is not with the starters, but rather with the caliber of the Kings bench.

The problem the Kings are initially facing is that the blue-chip bench players, that is to say the seventh and eighth players off the bench, are injured and have yet to play a single minute of basketball. I’m talking about Trey Lyles and Kevin Huerter, who are legitimate NBA players that could arguably be starters on many teams.

Coach Brown has already made his intentions known as it relates to fan favorite Malik Monk, and he apparently is about to resume his role on the team as the consummate sixth man.

I can’t say I agree with this decision, but it is the coaches to make, and the fans must wait and see if he’s right or wrong.

I’m high on Keon Ellis, and I can certainly see why coach Brown is high on him as well, but whether he should be occupying the sixth man role or not, is a question that we may or may not ever have the chance to see.

At the moment, I just want to see some solid basketball and avoid losing every pre-season game going into the regular season. Losing can be contagious, and I would like to see the Kings put up a solid ‘W’ on Oct. 15, against the Utah Jazz. Follow that up with a crisp performance against the Clippers, and the home opener against the Timberwolves on Oct. 24, will feel like a playoff game.

I would be much more comfortable seeing Trey Lyles coming off the bench instead of Skal Labissiere. Obviously a project, Labissiere looks like a fish out of water on the court, and although I embrace his rags to riches story, this traveled 28-year-old from Haiti needs much more seasoning before he’s ready for prime time.

If ever there is a story every fan would love to embrace it would certainly be Skal Labissiere, but playing NBA basketball is all about confidence, and watching Skal on the court right now is not a picture of confidence.

Would I give up on Skal? No! But I would play his legs off in the G-league and I would do everything imaginable to build his confidence.

Never give up on a potential late-bloomer, and Labissiere could be a true late-bloomer.

One of the smartest moves the NBA has ever made is the creation of the G-league, and already the league is replete with success stories. I would love to see Skal become one of those success stories, and it’s entirely possible that that could happen.

Not to make too much of one loss, the Portland game shed light on what happens when the Kings don’t shoot their threes. On Sunday Sacramento shot a disappointing 17% from beyond the arc, and for this team that portends disaster. They don’t have to shoot 45%, but something north of 38% is imperative if the Kings hope to have a better season than last year.

I believe the Kings will prove to be a solid three-point shooting team, as there is simply too much talent on this team for the outcome to be otherwise.

Monk, Huerter, and Lyles are all proven three-point shooters, so at this point with a small sample size to look at, it’s time to take a deep breath, have faith and just work on seeing improvement every game.

If there was any bright spot in the Blazer game it was Alex Len’s 13 points off the bench, and if Sacramento is going to have the successful season all Kings fans want to see, Len will need to make a nightly contribution on both ends of the court. At times Len looks like the rim protector the Kings desperately need, and I for one am hoping he can double down on this aspect of his game.

On another positive note, it was a shot in the arm to watch DeMar DeRozan carve up the Warriors in the preseason opener. Hitting all six of his field goals, he truly played the part of the six-time all-star we had all hoped to see.

The season opener looms ahead, and a quick start will erase any memory of poor preseason performances.

Let’s get our bench players healthy and see what the full contingent looks like.

Keep the faith Kings fans. Wins are right around the corner!!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Gridley Police Report: October 1–13

- Oct. 1**

At 2:38 a.m. on Laurel Street and Ohio Street, Gridley, Christina Mae Powell, 50, was arrested on suspicion of Unlawful use/etc. of driver license – Impersonation (M) (14610(A)(1) VC), Obtain credit/etc.: use others ID – Identity theft (M) (530.5(A) PC), and an outside agency felony warrant and was booked into Butte County Jail.

At 12:20 p.m. on the 0 block of Fairview Drive, Gridley, Clint Tod Childers, 57, was arrested on suspicion of Assault with firearm on person – Weapon law violations (F) (245(A)(2) PC), Threaten crime with intent to terrorize (F) (422(A) PC),
- and Exhibit firearm in a threatening manner – Aggravated (M) (417(A) (2)(B) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Oct. 4

At 7:50 a.m. on the 800 block of Laurel Street, Gridley, Garrett Jacob Timothy Gerst, 22, was arrested on suspicion of Petty theft – All other larceny (M) (488 PC), and Probation violation: rearrest/revoke (M) (1203.2 (A) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

At 2:05 p.m. at Hwy 99 and Township Road, Gridley, Angel Romero Batalla, 49, was arrested on an outside agency felony warrant and was booked into Butte County Jail.
- Oct. 12**


At 9:21 p.m. on the 300 block of Virginia Street, Gridley, Don Gordon Butler, 71, was arrested on suspicion of trespassing: refusing to leave property: peace officer request (M) (602(O)(1) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Oct. 13

At 10:25 p.m. on the 300 block of Virginia Street, Gridley, Don Gordon Butler, 71, was arrested on suspicion of trespassing: refusing to leave property: peace officer request (M) (602(O) (1) PC) and disorderly conduct: alcohol (M) (647 (F) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail. ★



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FOR THE LOVE OF

BOOKS

By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 [amy_fortheloveofbooks](https://www.instagram.com/amy_fortheloveofbooks)

Young Adult Reads to Scream About



The Lake House
by Sarah Beth Durst;
Harper Teen

Claire has always been one to be prepared. She runs over worst-case scenarios in her head, preparing for anything that "could" happen, yet nothing ever does. That was until Claire showed up at her off-grid summer camp. This summer camp was supposed to be a whole new experience, and she was even a little excited, even though it was entirely off the grid. But what Claire discovered when she arrived was more than any worse case scenario she could have imagined. All that was left of the camp was burnt remains, and Claire and the other two late arrivals were all that was left. No shelter, cell phones, electricity, or way to get back home. But even worse – realizing they weren't the only ones left behind. Someone is out there hunting them, and they will need to uncover the truth in order to survive.



The Blonde Dies First
Joelle Wellington,
Simon & Schuster

What started as the best summer ever quickly turns dark when a group of teens learn what happens when you mess with a Ouija board. Now, Devon, her genius twin sister, along with their group of friends, are spending their summer trying not to die as they are being hunted down by an unleashed demon. Then Devon quickly realizes that this demon might not be a demotic creature, but a human hunting them in horror movie style. As Devon fights to try and save her friend's lives, she starts to feel them slip away. Will their horror movie knowledge help them change the tables on the killer, or will this be their last summer together?

This “trope-savvy, self-referential young adult thriller” is the perfect Halloween read for fans of the Scream franchise.

The Hysterical Girls of St Bernadette’s
Hanna Alkaf, Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster

A chilling dark-academia



thriller just in time for the spooky season.

St Bernadette's has always been known for shaping the best minds of young women, but it also has another reputation.

While St Bernadette's has been the school girls' have been fighting to attend for over 100 years, everything is about to change with one scream. By the end of one day, a chain reaction, 17 girls each falling into fits of screaming.

Khadijah has her own problems that need attention, but seeing her friends mysteriously fall into hysterical fits starts to tear her apart, but when her sister becomes the next victim, she knows she has to step in.

Rachel finally starts to find her own voice, free from her mother's expectations. But just as she starts to feel free, she falls into the screams.

Now, it is between Khadijah and Rachel to try to uncover the school's dark history, but what lies in the darkness watching is more than either of them could ever prepare for. ★

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Check Your Ballot Before the Election

By Assemblyman James Gallagher

Dear Friends,
Election day – Nov. 5 - is right around the corner, which means you will have the power to elect your leaders and make your voices heard.
Ballots started being sent out on Oct. 7, which means it's time to think about your voting plan. To cast your ballot, you can either cast your ballot by mail, take your ballot to a designated ballot drop-off location,

or cast your vote in person at a polling station.
If you submit your ballot by mail, you can track it by visiting [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://www.sos.ca.gov/). The last day to register to vote is Oct. 21, after that, you can register to vote at a polling location and cast a provisional ballot.
You can also visit the Secretary of State's website (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/>) to get more information about how to cast your ballot.
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This 4 weeks, 2 hours per week 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.

Date: Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024 | **Time:** 8:30am – 10:30am

Cost: Free | **Location:** Butte College SBDC, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico

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This 3-weeks, 3 hours per week series, sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, 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 and 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 and break-even analysis; Knowing how to think critically when looking at pricing and costs; and Developing forecasts and budgetary tools and techniques to improve profit.

Date: Tuesdays, December 3, 10, & 17, 2024 | **Time:** 8:30am – 11:30am

Cost: Free | **Location:** Butte College SBDC, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico

ServSafe Food Safety Training and Certification (Chico)

California Uniform Retail Food Facility Law requires re-certification of competence in Food Safety and Sanitation every 5 years. Passing the ServSafe® exam is necessary to renew your certification. Training includes National Restaurant Association ServSafe® Exam, Essentials book, Answer Sheet and Certificate. Training is recognized by the California Health Department and fulfills the State of California certification obligations. Learn the importance of food safety practices and how to implement them. Trainer is State certified. Participants must register and purchase books 3 weeks before training.

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 | **Time:** 9:00am - 5:00pm

Cost: \$120 per person (includes book); \$80 per person (book not included)

Location: Butte College SBDC, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico



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





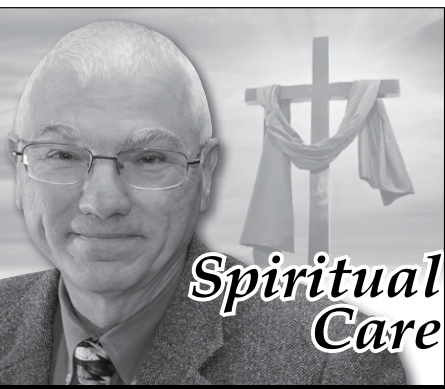


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SBDC programs are nondiscriminatory and available to individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least 72 hours in advance. Contact Sophie Konuwa, director, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd.,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



What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid?



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Earlier this month, I celebrated my 67th birthday with a couple of pieces of German chocolate cake.
Fortunately, experience told me not to go for a third.
That's because I still remember my seventh birthday when I sneaked a half-dozen cupcakes from my mom's cake carrier, devoured them and threw up just prior to the party.
But still, that birthday wasn't the worst.
My worst birthday was my 45 th when my Air Force chaplain supervisor came into my office at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, wearing a strained expression.
"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," he said, "but your name didn't appear on the Air Force promotion list to major."
I was unsure how to interpret the news. The pessimist in me said I'd just been fired.
And if my optimist was saying anything, I couldn't hear it because the pessimist was choking him out.
The military doesn't keep officers who don't make the rank of major. This meant I had only six months to find a new job before I would be unemployed and stranded 3,000 miles from my California home.
The only reaction I offered my supervisor was, "And this is my birthday."
It was about that time that a colleague presented me with a helpful book titled, "Who Moved My Cheese?" by authors Spencer Johnson, M.D. and Ken Blanchard. Johnson and Blanchard seemed to be proclaiming that change was the only certainty in life, so deal with it.
The book uses a parable format to depict talking lab mice that work to outsmart the scientists who are constantly

moving their cheese into an unfamiliar part of their maze.
Somebody had indeed moved my cheese, and the military maze I'd known for eight years became an unfriendly place, so I spent the next hour hunting for help.
About halfway through the book, I stopped, taken aback by a particularly evocative question that the mouse characters found written inside their maze. "What would you do if you weren't afraid?"
I looked away, paraphrasing the conundrum aloud in a slow and thoughtful repetition. "What would I do if I weren't so afraid of change?"
It was abundantly clear what I normally did when I felt afraid. I got upset, I fretted and then became a generally rude person toward those who loved me.
But the authors were insisting that I answer a different question: "What would I do if I weren't afraid?"
I went to the copy machine where I enlarged the quote into a mini poster which I placed above my desk.
A few weeks later, as fear melted from the equation, I came to know exactly what I would do.
I would return to my California home and to the most rewarding ministry of my life — I determined to resume my career in hospital chaplaincy.
No, the cheese question didn't work magic. It didn't totally suspend my fears.
I was still scared, but I was determined to keep fear from obscuring my goal. I printed my resumé, scheduled hospital interviews and kept pressing toward the goal.
Three months later, I had six job offers for hospital chaplaincies and I returned to part-time military life as an Air National Guard chaplain.
Twenty-three years have passed since that harsh announcement. But that day continues to remind me that whenever I'm uncertain, fearful or just plain indecisive, I can reach into my resiliency repertoire for the refrain of that birthday question.
When I think about it long enough, the answer usually floats to the top.
You may ask, "Does that always work for you, Norris?"
No, not always. Sometimes I default to eating a half dozen cupcakes. ★

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Adventist Health and Rideout Earn Prestigious Baby-Friendly Designation



Adventist Health and Rideout News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Adventist Health and Rideout is thrilled to announce its Family Birthing Center has

been awarded the internationally recognized Baby-Friendly designation after undergoing a comprehensive evaluation by Baby-Friendly USA. This prestigious certification reflects the

hospital’s commitment to the highest standards of maternity care, ensuring breastfeeding mothers and their newborns receive unparalleled support from the very first moments of life. The positive health effects of breastfeeding are well documented and widely recognized by health authorities throughout the world. For example, the Surgeon General’s 2011 Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding stated that

“Breast milk is uniquely suited to the human infant’s nutritional needs and is a live substance with unparalleled immunological and anti-inflammatory properties that protect against a host of illnesses and diseases for both mothers and children.” The Baby-Friendly designation is based on the rigorous “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding,” a globally endorsed initiative by the World Health Organization

(WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). These evidence-based practices ensure optimal infant feeding and bonding, establishing a solid foundation for lifelong health. “This honor reflects our unwavering commitment to nurturing the health and well-being of our community’s mothers and infants,” said Krista Minton, Family Birthing Center director at Adventist Health and Rideout. “We are dedicated

to providing comprehensive support to new families, ensuring they have the best resources and guidance to thrive from day one.” This designation not only highlights Adventist Health and Rideout’s commitment to the families in the Yuba-Sutter community but also solidifies its place among leading healthcare providers, ensuring local access to the best possible start in life for generations to come. ★

Legal Advertising Hotline
916-483-2299

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

The Gridley Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Butte, Adjudication No. 27207–October 29, 1951

Legal Advertising
300 Spruce Street, Ste C
Gridley, CA 95948

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000694
The following person(s) are doing business as: Feeling Farm Books, 1473 Lucy Way, Chico, CA 95973
Robin D Williams, 1473 Lucy Way, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: September 9, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: September 9, 2024
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024
FEELING 10-25-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000565
The following person(s) are doing business as: Boyds Mobile Welding Service, 705 Vermont Street, Gridley, CA 95948
James A Boyd, 705 Vermont Street, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: July 22, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024
BOYDS 10-25-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000691
The following person(s) are doing business as: Deep Reserve, 560 East 3rd Street, Chico, CA 95928
Carissa Grace Rystrom, 560 East 3rd Street, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: September 6, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024
DEEP 10-25-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000733
The following person(s) are doing business as: Urban Edge Brokers, 898 East 7th Street, Chico, CA 95928
Eric R Stofa, PO Box 3117, Chico, CA 95927

Date filed in Butte County: September 23, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 2024
URBAN 11-1-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000766
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mechanic Works, 2936 2nd Street, Biggs, CA 95917
Christopher A Woodward, PO Box 134, Biggs, CA 95917
Date filed in Butte County October 3, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 2024
MECHANIC 11-1-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000768
The following person(s) are doing business as: Hemkunt Sahib Farms, 636 Larkin Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Sukhjitt Kaur Dhillon and Harjit Singh Dhillon, 636 Larkin Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: October 4, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: September 22, 2003
This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 2024
HEMKUNT 11-8-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-0000769
The following person(s) are doing business as: Happy Valley Leasing, 2515 Ceanothus Avenue, Suite #100, Chico, CA 95973
Entwood Property Management, Inc., 2515 Ceanothus Avenue, Suite #100, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: October 4, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: a Corporation. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County

Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 2024
HAPPY 11-8-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #24CV02859
Petitioner David Emerson Hyde filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: David Emerson Hyde to David Vincent Hyde.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing October 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department TBD, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
Filed on September 5, 2024
Tamara L. Mosbarger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Sept 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 2024
HYDE 10-18-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #24CV02818
Petitioner Sammantha Marie Cowan filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Sammantha Marie Cowan to Sammantha Marie Schut.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing October 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
Filed on September 6, 2024
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Sept 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 2024
COWAN 10-18-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MAUREEN MCDANNEL CASE NO. 24PR00414
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Maureen McDannel.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Mark D. McDannel, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Mark D. McDannel be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will

allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: November 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 1. Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Raoul J. LeClerc, P.O. Drawer 111, Oroville, CA 95965; 530-533-5661
Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 2024
MCDANNEL 10-18-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RUBY CABLE
CASE NO. 24PR00436
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Ruby Cable.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Curtis Cable, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Curtis Cable be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: November 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 1. Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California

statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Alyssa Chow, 3626 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95864; 916-619-6163
Publish: Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 2024
CABLE 11-1-24

LIEN SALE

1963 GMC PK VIN# 1502CG3450B
CA LIC# M87734 LIEN SALE: 10/29/2024 AT: 10:00 AM
6210 MINERS RANCH RD., OROVILLE, CA 95966
GRIDLEY HERALD 10-18-24

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE Trustee Sale No. 175229 Title No. DEF-634310 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 08/24/2017. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 10/30/2024 at 3:30 PM, Prime Recon LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 09/01/2017, as Instrument No. 2017-0030595, in book xx, page xx, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Butte County, State of California, executed by Sebastian Underwood and Rebecca Underwood, husband and wife, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK/ CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States), Main Entrance, Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965. All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State, described as: FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE DEED OF TRUST. APN 009-105-006-000 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 762 Maine St, Gridley, CA 95948 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$128,059.02 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Dated: 9/19/2024

Prime Recon LLC Prime Recon LLC. may be attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. Adriana Durham, Vice President Prime Recon LLC, 27368 Via Industria, Ste 201, Temecula, CA 92590 (888) 725-4142 FOR TRUSTEE’S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (800) 280-2832 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder’s office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 280-2832 for information regarding the trustee’s sale or visit this Internet Web site - www.auction.com - for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case: 175229. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an “eligible tenant buyer,” you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an “eligible bidder,” you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 280-2832 for information regarding the trustee’s sale, or visit this internet website www. auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case Ts# 175229 to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee’s sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee’s sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. A-4825296 Published 10/04/2024, 10/11/2024, 10/18/2024
GRIDLEY HERALD 10-18-24

MPG

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT
LLA24-0011 (Cruz Melchor et al.)

Pursuant to Butte County Code section 20-95.1, Cruz Melchor et al. have submitted an application to Butte County for a Lot Line Adjustment (Planning File # LLA24-0011) between two (2) parcels: Lot 'A' (APN: 021-250-002) and Lot 'B' (APN: 021-250-003). Existing parcel sizes are 0.42 acres (Lot 'A') and 0.66 acres (Lot 'B'). The project would result in two parcels with sizes of 0.48 acres (Lot 'A') and 0.60 acres (Lot 'B'). The project parcels are located at 1391 Lossner Ave (Lot 'A') and 1383 & 1379 Lossner Ave (Lot 'B'), Gridley, CA 95948 adjacent to the south of the City of Gridley across Little Avenue.

Application materials may be viewed online at <https://permits.buttecounty.net/trakit/Search/project.aspx> by entering "LLA24-0011" in the search box. For information, contact Tristan Weems, AICP, Senior Planner, by email at twiems@buttecounty.net or by phone at 530.552.3685.

Comments must be submitted in written form on or before Monday, October 28, 2024. The Zoning Administrator will review and approve this Lot Line Adjustment application on or after this date if the proposal is found to comply with the requirements of the County's ordinance and consistent with the General Plan.

If you challenge the above application in court, you may be limited to raising only those concerns you or someone else submitted in written form to the Department of Development Services, Planning Division, prior to Monday, October 28, 2024.

PAULA M. DANELUK AICP, DIRECTOR,
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Gridley Herald 10-18-2024

Interactive Database Reports if Agencies Fiscally Healthy

California Policy Center News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Policy Center released a Local Fiscal Health Dashboard on Oct. 4 that tracks the financial health of California cities, counties and school districts. The interactive database allows users to track how elected officials are managing local budgets, support ongoing budget decision-making and identify financial red flags.

The new dashboard is especially timely for California voters who have local tax and bond measures on their November ballots. Each city, county and school district has been awarded a fiscal health score and letter grade from A to F, depending on how well they have managed their finances. Government entities are also identified and color-coded as low, moderate or high-risk for fiscal distress.

"We're excited to be able to offer local officials and voters this important tool for tracking their city's fiscal performance," said Lance Christensen, vice-president of government affairs at the California Policy Center. "Today, many local governments are asking taxpayers for more money to fund lower-quality services. Californians have the right to know where their hard-earned dollars are being effectively used and where they are not."

Sacramento-area cities had mixed results, from an "A" for Elk Grove while Folsom flunked the test. The grades for several cities in the region, listed alphabetically, include Citrus Heights, B; Colusa, C; Dixon, B; Elk Grove, A; Galt, B; Gridley,

Local Fiscal Health Dashboard Scoring Table

Letter Grade	Fiscal Health Score out of 100	Description - Overall Fiscal Risk
A	85 to 100	Low Risk of financial distress
B	70 to 84	Low Risk of financial distress
C	60 to 70	Moderate Risk of financial distress
D	50 to 60	Moderate Risk of financial distress
F	49 and under	High Risk of financial distress
N/A	No Data	Jurisdiction is delinquent in publishing timely financial audits
Exempt	Exempt From Reporting Requirement	Local entity's federal awards expenditures were less than \$750K

Local Fiscal Health Dashboard Scoring Table

B; Lincoln, B; Live Oak, C; Marysville, C; Rancho Cordova, B; Sacramento, D; West Sacramento, B; and Yuba City, D.

The Local Fiscal Health Dashboard fills a void in government transparency data left after the California State Auditor's Office unexpectedly discontinued its popular Local Government High-Risk Dashboard in October 2023. California Policy Center's new dashboard was created to replace and expand on that data to ensure local governments maintain transparency and accountability when it comes to their budgets.

California Policy Center's dashboard uses public data from Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) that local governments are required to submit every year to get access to federal funds. The dashboard provides key financial metrics to allow local elected officials, analysts, reporters and citizens to understand how cities are performing overall and

in comparison to other cities, and spotlight concerning financial trends.

"The public should have access to the tools necessary to ensure government budgets are transparent and government officials are held accountable," Christensen said. "Californians can't allow government officials to sweep bad fiscal news under the rug."

Tracking local financial metrics, such as liabilities and revenue trends, is crucial. California has more than \$1.6 trillion in unfunded liabilities (debt) at both state and local levels. Many cities have potentially catastrophic unfunded pension liabilities. Other municipalities are making budget decisions based on incomplete, missing or delayed financial reports.

Cities are required to file their Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports, often referred to as annual audits, every year. Most municipalities submit the financial reports within nine months of fiscal year end (as required

by the federal and state governments) but many others are routinely and egregiously late in filing their required annual financial reports, according to the California Policy Center. That means local officials are left to make budgeting decisions without current fiscal information.

Out of 482 cities, 86 (or 17.8%) received an "A" grade; 21 (4.4%) received an "F" grade, indicating they are at high-risk of fiscal catastrophe and 70 cities (14.52%) are delinquent in submitting their 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. (Sixteen cities are exempt from reporting.)

But 189 cities, counties and school districts have still not submitted Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports for 2023. Twenty-six of those cities, counties and school districts that are missing their 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report are asking voters to OK a local tax increase on the November ballot and/or approve new bonds

totaling \$534.6 million in new borrowing.

"When cities don't turn in their fiscal reports on time, city officials have to make important budget decisions without the data they need," Christensen said. "Even worse, many of the cities that aren't on top of their financial reports are proposing tax increases and putting local bond measures on the ballot."

Based on the dashboard data, California Policy Center has identified 10 of the best and worst performing cities statewide when it comes to financial health. The dashboard designates the level of financial risk as low, moderate or high.

This financial risk determination is achieved by evaluating each entity on 10 key fiscal metrics: General Fund Reserves, Debt Burden, Liquidity, Revenue Trends, Pension Costs, Pension Funding, Pension Obligations, Other Post Employment Benefit Obligations, Other Post Employment Benefit

Funding, and Net Worth.

The 10 cities earning the highest fiscal health scores and an "A" grade are Eastvale (Riverside County), Indian Wells (Riverside County), Danville (Contra Costa County), Rancho Mirage (Riverside County), Lake Forest (Orange County), La Quinta (Riverside County), Laguna Woods (Orange County), Dublin (Alameda County), La Mirada (Los Angeles County) and Jurupa Valley (Riverside County).

Ten of the worst performing cities are considered high-risk for fiscal stress, including the ability of the city to pay its bills in the short and long term.

Cities earning the lowest fiscal health scores and an "F" grade are Ukiah (Mendocino County), West Covina (Los Angeles County), Richmond (Contra Costa County), Calexico (Imperial County), San Gabriel (Los Angeles County), Oakland (Alameda County), Orange (Orange County), Pinole (Contra Costa County), Atwater (Merced County) and Escondido (San Diego County).

Other cities that received an "F" include San Buenaventura/Ventura, Grover Beach, Banning, Lake Elsinore, Folsom, Costa Mesa, Montebello, Downey, Monrovia, Hayward and Lindsay. With many cities having yet to file Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports for Fiscal Year 2023 and in some cases, Fiscal Year 2022, this list of worst cities is subject to change. Some cities with poor financial metrics are often late filers.

Information about California cities, counties and school districts can be found at californiapolicycenter.org/fiscal-health-dashboard. ★

Stop Criminals, Drugs, Theft

By John McGinness

California voters will have several very important decisions to make as they complete their November 2024 ballots. One that has the potential to reverse a decade of deterioration of the state's criminal justice system is Proposition 36.

To adequately analyze the merits of Proposition 36, a quick review of history is in order. Ten years ago, voters approved Proposition 47 based upon assurance that it would improve public safety. The voters were deceived – Proposition 47 eliminated compounding consequences for several theft and possession and use of dangerous drugs. Many crimes were reduced from felonies to misdemeanors, eliminating the deterrent value of discipline.

The results have been devastating for the state of California. Urban, suburban, and even rural areas once used for recreation have been taken over by critically addicted people living like walking zombies. Retail businesses have become so frequently victimized by "smash and grab" thieves that merchants have been forced to lock up much of their merchandise out of reach, inconveniencing legitimate costumers and staff. Fentanyl poisoning has become the leading cause of death for Americans 18-45-years-of-age. On average, over 200 deaths by fentanyl poisoning occur in the United States every day. Consider the tolerance

society would have in an environment in which 200 people were killed in a commercial airline crash every day – public outcry would be extreme and warranted; change would be mandated by an outraged public. Yet persons in positions of leadership seem oblivious or apathetic to the plight of our youth.

Proposition 36 will restore the ability of the criminal justice system to impose compounding consequences on chronic habitual offenders for the sake of discouraging unacceptable behavior. Specifically,

offenders convicted not once, but twice of possession of hard and dangerous drugs will be eligible for felony prosecution or completion of a court-supervised treatment for addiction. This course of action was common before the passage of Proposition 47, when drug court was a viable option for those first charged with felony drug possession. The impetus for treatment is now gone by virtue of chronic drug offenders suffering through addiction and only being cited for misdemeanor violations of law. That means no time in custody in California, and no incentive to participate

in court supervised treatment. Those cited typically ignore their citations, fail to appear in court and continue to live their destructive lifestyle, wreaking havoc on the streets, parks and public facilities throughout the state. Proposition

consequences be brought against those who habitually violate the law for the sake of discouraging habitual lawlessness.

Critics have asserted that Proposition 36 represents a reversion to days of mass incarceration. It does not!

Proposition 36 is a bipartisan concept created by elected attorneys of diverse political and philosophical affiliation, supported by big city mayors from California's diverse communities, to provide incentive for treatment for those chronically addicted to dangerous

drugs, as well as common sense solutions to those who habitually break the law and diminish the quality of life for law abiding Californians.

If concern for law abiding citizens and those seeking to safely pursue their dreams in this state is insufficient to motivate voters to support this thoughtful proposition, consider the wellbeing of the people directly adversely impacted by the results of the horrific current state of law. Since 2014, when Proposition 47 passed, the number of chronically addicted people living on the streets of California has exploded. Failing to recognize the wellbeing of those

36 will give incentive to those who badly need treatment. Those who complete the treatment and graduate from the program will have the opportunity to have their record expunged and avoid incarceration, liberating them to live rich full lives.

Proposition 36 will also reclassify fentanyl as a hard drug, and provide enhanced penalties on those who possess fentanyl while armed with a firearm.

As or thieves, Proposition 36 will impose the potential for felony consequences for persons twice convicted of petty theft and charged with a subsequent theft case. It simply demands that



lost to drugs on the streets represents an apathetic disregard for our fellow human beings. Swift, lawful action taken to put these lost souls on the path to a vastly better existence is the compassionate and appropriate action to be taken by the electorate of this state.

Ten years ago, the political leadership of the state of California misled the voters, assuring them that Proposition 47 would enhance public safety, that eliminating thoughtful punitive consequences for lawlessness would somehow make the schools and neighborhoods safer. Many of those same people are again describing Proposition as something vastly different than what it is. Proposition 36 is a plan to reduce homelessness, drug addiction, and theft in California. Law-abiding taxpayers deserve better, future generations of Californians deserve better and those in the grip of addiction need our help. Please do not be fooled by the same people who misled the voters to pass Proposition 47.

Please help save California. Vote "Yes" on Prop.36.

John McGinness, MS, is the retired sheriff of Sacramento County, an adjunct professor of criminal justice and host of the John McGinness Show on KFBK. He can be reached at 916-924-3901

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Man Sentenced for Murder in 2022 DUI Deaths of Two College Students

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In an emotional court hearing Oct. 3, a Concow man was sentenced to 30 years to life in state prison for his drunken high-speed collision with two college students in 2022 in Chico.

Matthew Arias Moen, 33, was sentenced to the maximum term by Butte County Superior Court Judge Virginia Gingery following a jury verdict of two counts of second-degree murder after he killed Cassi Tejada, 22, and Courtney Kendall, 24, when Moen drove while intoxicated at speeds exceeding 75 miles per hour in a 25-mile-per-hour school zone. Moen had

also been previously convicted twice of driving under the influence (DUI).

Moen's public defender had asked the judge to merge the two murder punishments into one concurrent 15-year to life sentence. However, the judge rejected his request after hearing emotional "impact statements" from the two college students' family members and friends.

Prosecutors also argued Moen should receive the maximum term permitted under the law due to the nature of the crime, Moen's criminal history and his lack of remorse.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges arose from a Sunday, Jan. 30 fatal collision next to the Neal

Dow Elementary School in Chico at 4:50 p.m. Ramsey said school surveillance video and witnesses in the area established Moen's Volvo sedan was speeding north on Neal Dow Avenue at speeds over 75 miles per hour. The posted speed limit on the roadway there is 25 mph, said Ramsey, and the road had speed bumps.

Moen's car went through a red light at the intersection with East 5th Avenue, striking a Jeep driven by Cassi Tejada that was proceeding on East 5th Ave. on a green light. Ramsey said the force of the collision drove the Jeep into the garage of a residence on the northwest corner of the intersection, killing both Tejada and her passenger, Courtney Kendall.

Forensic evidence established that Moen was driving with a blood alcohol level of .26 percent, more than three times the legal driving limit.

The jury was presented with evidence that before the collision, Moen was seen at two bars around Chico and ultimately kicked out of one of them for causing a disturbance. He sped away from that bar, nearly causing a collision with another car as he came out of the parking lot. He was next seen speeding on Neal Dow Ave.

Jurors were informed this was Moen's third DUI incident within ten years. In 2016, Moen pleaded guilty to a DUI out of Springfield, OR for driving the wrong way on a one-way street. In 2020, Moen

pleaded guilty to a second DUI in Nevada City (Nevada County) after he drove onto the sidewalk of a business. Moen had also been arrested three other times for being drunk in public.

As a result of his Nevada County DUI conviction, Moen was ordered to attend DUI classes that emphasized the fatal dangers of driving while intoxicated. Evidence of those classes and the fact Moen was given a legal warning that if he committed another DUI which resulted in a death, he could be prosecuted for murder, known in California as a "Watson Murder" from a California case of the same name.

Cassi Tejada, 22, of Visalia, was attending

Chico State with aspirations of becoming a teacher at the time of her death. Family members displayed photographs of the young women on a posterboard during the sentencing. Tejada's family also presented the Court with numerous sports medals Tejada had received over the years.

Courtney Kendall, 24, of Louisiana, was attending Louisiana State University and had been visiting Tejada at the time of her death. The young women were good friends, and both were due to graduate in June of 2022. Kendall's parents appeared remotely by video from Louisiana and shared how they stood in their daughter's place at Kendall's graduation, accepting her diploma. ★

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Chico Gang Member Convicted of Shooting — Again

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A Chico gang member was convicted by a Butte County Superior Court jury on Oct. 8 for a 2021 gang shooting and faces over 40 years in state prison. It was his second such conviction.

Raul Daniel Linarez-Rodriguez, of Chico, was found guilty as charged of assault with a semi-automatic firearm. The jury also found true special allegations that Linarez used a firearm in the commission of the offense and caused great bodily injury to the victim. The jury also found Linarez guilty of reckless discharge of a firearm, two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and being a felon in possession of

ammunition.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the jury was presented evidence that on Oct. 27, 2021, shortly after 10 p.m., a male subject dressed completely in black, with a red bandana covering his face and hood covering his head, approached a gas station and convenience store located at the intersection of East 1st Ave. and Longfellow Avenue in Chico. The masked subject engaged the clerk in a brief discussion and then pulled a semi-automatic handgun and fired two shots.

The first shot hit the clerk. The second shot missed, but hit a car parked across the street at a fitness center. After firing the shots, the masked subject fled the area. The shooting was

witnessed a by nearby citizen who called 911. The victim clerk was transported to Enloe Hospital and treated for a gunshot wound through his upper left thigh.

The jury was told by the trial prosecutor, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Marc Noel, how detectives from the Chico Police Department used the witness description of the masked suspect and security video from the gas station store to identify Linarez as the shooter. Multiple detectives spent hours independently reviewing the security video frame by frame and were able to identify Linarez based on gang affiliation, tattoos on visible skin, glasses worn by him and an unusual physical head tic during the conversation with the

clerk.

Noel noted detectives were also aware that 15 days before the shooting, on Oct. 12, 2021, Linarez had been attacked and beaten by members of a rival gang. Although the store clerk was not involved in that incident, detectives determined the clerk was a friend of one of the attackers and an associate of the rival gang.

Detectives put together enough evidence and sought the permission of the District Attorney's Office to arrest Linarez on Nov. 20, 2021. He was seen driving on East Ave. and the police attempted a traffic stop at the entrance to a local shopping complex. However, Linarez refused to yield and led police on a pursuit through the shopping center parking lot. He

was able to briefly elude police by exiting the parking lot onto Ceanothus Avenue. He was relocated and arrested within three minutes.

Jurors heard from the owner of a house on Ceanothus Ave., who located a loaded firearm on his front lawn and turned it over to Chico Police. The firearm was the same caliber and physically identical to the firearm seen in the Oct. 27 shooting. The firearm, and shell casings found at the scene of the Oct. 27 shooting were sent to the Department of Justice Criminalistics Lab in Chico for analysis. Criminalists there forensically determined the gun was the one used in the Oct. 27 shooting and found Linarez's DNA on the trigger.

Linarez was well

known to the Chico Police Department because of his prior conviction in 2006 for a gang-related shooting and for subsequent arrests and convictions for being a felon in possession of firearms while on parole.

On Oct. 8, the jury also found true special allegations that Linarez had previously been convicted of a serious and violent felony offense (the 2006 conviction) and had not stayed free of prison for 10 years.

In total, Linarez could be sentenced to over 40 years in state prison.

After the verdicts, Linarez was remanded without bail to the Butte County Jail pending sentencing. He has remained in custody since the Oct. 27, 2021 shooting. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 30 at 9:30 a.m. ★

Chico Pallet Shelter Arsonist Pleads No Contest

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A Chico man pleaded no contest in court Oct. 2 for setting a fire that destroyed two pallet residences at the Chico Genesis Pallet Shelter in August.

Zachary Fitch, 34, who had been charged with a felony count of intentional arson of inhabited residences was scheduled for a preliminary hearing

in Butte County Superior Court Oct. 2. Fitch however waived the hearing and admitted his crime by pleading no contest. Fitch also pleaded no contest to an additional felony count of grand theft from a previous arrest.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that on Aug. 5, at approximately 3:15 a.m., the Chico Fire Department along with the Chico Police Department responded to two pallet residences

on fire at the Genesis Shelter, located at 2280 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway.

After an extensive investigation, Fitch was arrested by Chico police detectives two weeks later for setting the fire. One of the pallet residences was occupied by Fitch's girlfriend, who was not home at the time of the incident.

The fire spread quickly to an adjacent pallet residence, belonging to another victim unrelated to Fitch. That resident

was present at the time of the incident but escaped without physical injury.

Surveillance video at the shelter earlier that morning showed Fitch and his girlfriend having a verbal argument and then both leaving the shelter. Later video footage showed a masked individual, who was wearing the same clothes as Fitch, jump the fence into the shelter area. As that person was seen leaving, a fire began in the area where the person had

been.

Fitch is facing up to eight years in prison for the arson plus an additional two years for committing the arson while he was on his own recognizance for a grand theft proceeding. He had been released from the jail by a judge on July 31, on his own recognizance under the supervision of the Butte County Probation Department, pending further court proceedings.

Ramsey said the

previous grand theft charge was for stealing more than \$6,000 worth of merchandise from the Chico Target Store over some 14 previous thefts from that store over a year. Fitch had admitted the thefts were to resell the merchandise because he did not have a job and needed cash to support his fentanyl addiction.

Fitch remains held in custody at the Butte County Jail without bail pending his sentencing on Nov. 6. ★

Nine Commission-Supported Bills Signed into Law

Little Hoover Commission News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Nine bills supported by the Little Hoover Commission were signed into law this year, including four measures that will strengthen efforts against intimate partner violence and other legislation to address labor trafficking, organic waste disposal, and customer-centric government.

“Seeing our recommendations embraced by the legislature and Governor Newsom and then turned into concrete policy improvements speaks to the Little Hoover Commission’s bi-partisan approach to solving California’s complex challenges,” said Commission Chair Pedro Nava. “We are honored that our work is helping to protect many of California’s most vulnerable.”

The Commission is a nonpartisan 13-member body appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership, and charged with making recommendations for policy changes that will foster efficiency, economy, and improved service in state government. The Commission supports legislation and other actions that implement its recommendations.

The four bills addressing intimate partner violence implement recommendations stemming from a pair of Commission reports on that topic. Among other reforms, those reports urged a focus on prevention and early intervention, accompanied by adequate funding.

Three of the bills address prevention and early intervention:

AB 2308 (Davies) extends from 10 to 15 years the maximum duration of a protective order issued against people convicted of certain domestic violence offenses.

SB 1394 (Min) creates new ways for survivors to stop a

domestic abuser from tracking their car.

SB 989 (Ashby) enhances investigation procedures in cases involving domestic violence-related deaths.

The fourth bill, AB 2432 (Gabriel, Cervantes, Reyes), establishes a California Crime Victims Fund, which will disburse fines paid by corporations convicted of illegal activity, to assist victims, including survivors of intimate partner violence.

“These new laws will make a real impact in the lives of people who experience intimate partner violence,” said Commissioner Janna Sidley, who chaired the Commission’s subcommittee on IPV, “We want to congratulate Assemblymembers Davies, Gabriel, Cervantes and Reyes and Senator Min, for their important work in getting these bills passed, and the Governor for signing them.”

Two other approved bills further the goals of recommendations from three Commission reports on labor trafficking. Detecting labor trafficking is particularly difficult as few understand the nature of the crime, and implementation of state human trafficking laws has focused primarily on sex trafficking.

Even when these crimes are successfully identified, cases that bring traffickers to justice remain rare. The Commission recommended that the state should empower state agencies to investigate labor trafficking crimes and conduct public education and outreach campaigns to increase awareness of all forms of human trafficking.

AB 1888 (Arambula and Ramos) establishes a dedicated labor trafficking unit within the California Department of Justice to receive labor trafficking reports from law enforcement agencies and other entities and refer those reports to appropriate

agencies for action. AB 1966 (Davies) requires ticket sellers to include information and resources for human trafficking victims with all ticket purchases for events at an entertainment venue.

“These reforms will help California serve those victimized by labor trafficking, an often-hidden crime,” said Commission Vice Chair Anthony Cannella. “Assemblymembers Arambula, Ramos and Davies should be very proud of this important milestone.”

In a 2023 report, Reducing California’s Landfill Emissions: SB 1383 Implementation, the Commission determined that California is falling short in the fight against harmful landfill emissions, a major contributor to climate change. The report featured recommendations that would help further the state’s efforts to curb methane emission, including:

Build as much flexibility as possible for local governments to recycle their organic waste.

Expand the list of compliance pathways and products eligible to count toward a jurisdiction’s procurement requirements.

Plan for the necessary infrastructure to achieve the state’s environmental goals, facilitate community composting, speed up the permitting process, and make any necessary changes to the relationship between state and local governments to better reflect shared responsibility for waste management.

Two approved bills will further the goals of these recommendations. AB 2346 (Lee) provides flexibility to local governments in how they comply with procurement requirements for recovered organic material. SB 1046 (Laird) requires a Program Environmental Impact Report for small and medium composts facilities to streamline permitting and help the state meet its climate goals.

AB 2455 (Gabriel) modernizes whistleblower laws and add protections to prevent the misuse of state funds and is in line with numerous Commission recommendations through the years regarding fiscal accountability.

Here are details of the nine bills that were supported by the Commission and that were signed into law this year.

Intimate Partner Violence

SB 989 (Ashby) expands law enforcement and coroners’ duties when a deceased person has a history as victim of domestic violence. Allows additional access to coroner records for family members when litigating a victim’s death.

AB 2432 (Gabriel, Cervantes, Reyes) establishes the California Crime Victims Fund in the State Treasury and would require that moneys deposited in the fund be continuously appropriated to the Office of Emergency Services to support crime victims’ services.

AB 2308 (Davies) authorizes a court to issue a protective order for up to 15 years. Authorizes the issuing court, upon a written petition by the prosecuting attorney, defendant, or victim, to modify or terminate the protective order for good cause if the parties receive notice at least 15 days before the hearing on the petition. Expands the scope of a crime to create a state-mandated local program.

SB 1394 (Min) establishes a process for the rapid termination of a domestic abuser’s access to app-connected, remote, and GPS-based vehicle technology. Requires car manufacturers to disable an abuser’s access to remote vehicle technology within two business days of a survivor’s request provided sufficient documentation, such as proof of legal possession of the vehicle or a domestic violence restraining order that awards

possession of the vehicle in question.

Labor Trafficking

AB 1966 (Davies) requires a primary ticket seller to include information regarding non-profit organizations that provide services or support in the elimination of slavery and human trafficking.

AB 1888 (Arambula and Ramos) establishes the Labor Trafficking Unit within the Department of Industrial Relations to receive, investigate, and prosecute complaints alleging labor trafficking and take steps to prevent it. The Unit will also coordinate with the Labor Enforcement Task Force, the Criminal Investigation Unit, the Department of Justice, and the Civil Rights Department to combat labor trafficking.

Organic Waste Disposal

AB 2346 (Lee) authorizes local jurisdictions to be credited for the procurement of recovered organic waste products through an agreement with a direct service provider. Recovered organic waste that local jurisdictions procure from specified compost operations also count towards the local jurisdiction’s procurement target.

SB 1046 (Laird) requires CalRecycle to prepare and certify completion of an environmental impact report that would streamline the process for jurisdictions to develop small and medium organic waste composting facilities.

Customer-Centric Government

AB 2455 (Gabriel) modernizes local and state whistleblower hotline laws and add protections to prevent the misuse of state funds. These changes are meant to improve accountability, increase public trust, and ensure government actions and transactions are transparent. ★

Homecoming Heartbreak for Biggs

Story and photos by
Seti Long

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The Wolverines ended their three-game winning streak in a hard loss to the Eureka Loggers on Friday, Oct. 11. The final score was Wolverines 0, Loggers 43.

After the junior varsity team took a loss to Eureka 0-16 earlier in the day, Biggs High School alumnus and 2023 homecoming royalty Thomas Job, returned to crown this year's homecoming king and queen.

Candidates for homecoming king were Eddie Ayala, Kyle Owen and Ethan Villanueva, with queen candidates Allie Little, Mailey Seipert and Bianca Reyes-Hernandez. The crown would go to Reyes-Hernandez with Villanueva taking the title of king.

The varsity team would then charge onto the field, surrounded by the junior varsity players and cheerleaders, eager to take on the Loggers.

Eureka would strike



Biggs High School 2024 homecoming queen, Bianca Reyes-Hernandez, and king, Ethan Villanueva were crowned prior to the Wolverines game against Eureka on Oct. 11.

first, getting a touchdown early in the first quarter. The Loggers rusher Gavyn Haberman, would pose a large threat to Wolverine defense, making big gains for the Loggers and eating up the field in the first half.

Despite efforts from the Wolverines' defenders, even sacking the Loggers quarterback in the second quarter, the Wolverines could not seem to gain traction against the Loggers.

Biggs would head into half-time trailing the Loggers with a score of 0-33.

During the break, homecoming activities would continue, with cheerleaders from each side battling it out on the field. Biggs performed their routine to a mix of artists in a nod to their homecoming float themes.

The floats would then take center stage, being displayed to both visiting and home sides of the field. The 2024 homecoming theme for Biggs High School was famous cities around the U.S.

Seniors took a bite out of the big apple with New York; sophomores stayed close to home with San Francisco; juniors tried to strike it rich in Las Vegas, while freshman shot for the stars with Hollywood.

Seniors would take first place in the float judging, freshman second, juniors third and sophomores fourth.

The Wolverines would come back hungry after halftime but would fail to



Wolverine defenders try to slow down the Loggers offense.



The freshman homecoming float paid homage to Hollywood!

score. Eureka would put one more touchdown on the board for the final blow of the game, for a final score of 0-43.

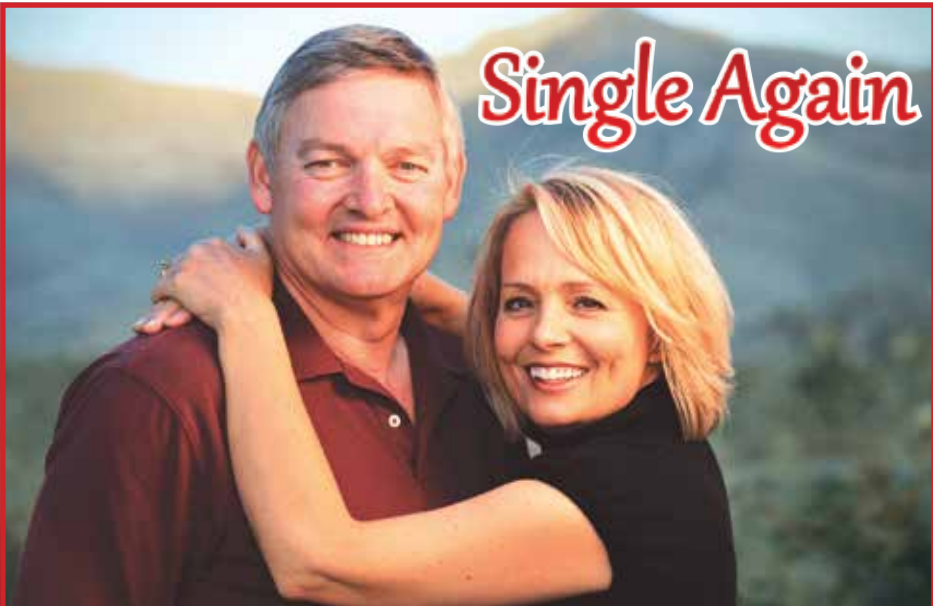
The Wolverines are scheduled to visit Portola to take on the Tigers on Friday Oct. 18, after press time.



Junior float complete with skyscrapers depicting the big apple took first place honors at homecoming on Oct. 11.



The senior homecoming float focused on Vegas!



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- Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

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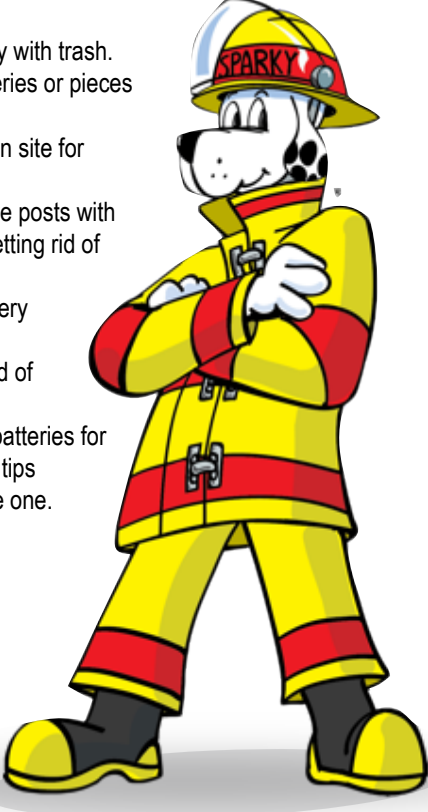
- Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- Store batteries standing up:
- 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer.
- Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

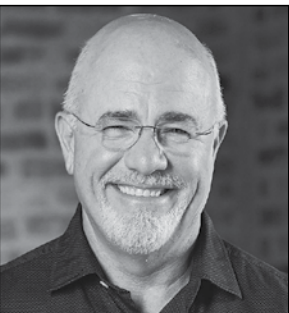
DISPOSAL:

- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.
- Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of with trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.

So, when you are preparing to stock up on batteries for the holidays, remember these simple safety tips to keep your holidays a safe and memorable one.

Thank You
Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74





Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are debt-free, and we live on a budget. My mother-in-law, on the other hand, uses credit cards for practically every purchase. Several times she has gone too far and run up balances she couldn't pay off. We bail her out when she does this, but often the extra purchases are frivolous things she doesn't need. We love her, of course, and we feel obligated to help because my wife is her only child. But her behavior with credit cards is beginning to put a strain on our finances. What should we do?

— Charles

Dear Charles,

This is a tough situation, one that's made even tougher by the fact that involves a close, loved family member. A very blunt, but caring, discussion is in order. But it needs to be initiated by your wife—not you. This is important, because if you try to step

Dave Ramsey Says *Be Gentle, But Don't Fund Financial Irresponsibility*

in and take the lead on things, you'll immediately become the mean son-in-law in her eyes.

You and your wife need to be completely on the same page about this situation, but she's the one who needs to approach mom and talk things out. She needs to sit down with her mom, and very gently let her know you two have talked, and you've decided together that you won't be picking up the pieces where her overspending is concerned anymore. Your wife also needs to tell her the two of you are willing to help her work on handling money a little better, and walk her through making and living on a monthly budget. Your wife could even explain that's what you guys do, and it's one of the reasons you're in such good financial shape.

Here's what it comes down to. You wouldn't buy her more drugs if you found out she was an addict, right? Along the same lines, you're not helping this lady by bailing her out every time she creates a money mess. You're enabling her

when you do this, and that's the same as telling her it's okay.

Work with her, Charles. Teach her, both of you, and love on her. Let her know you're there to help. If things get really bad, you can pay her light bill, or even buy her some groceries if the pantry gets a little bare. Hopefully, it won't come to anything that serious.

But one thing needs to be clear. You folks are not bailing her out anymore when she misbehaves with money.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

What a wonderful sight, the Northern Lights in Gridley. I had great hopes that they would be this far south. They were relatively calm, no pulsing and flickering, simply a beautiful red to pink glow. I heard the color would be enhanced by a cell phone picture. I went outside around 10 pm to see. The sky to the north had a funny mauve-pink

tinge. I took a picture and there they were in bright magenta to pink, what a gift. While I was light hunting there was another wonderful gift. I heard the weird little sound toads make. It's not a croak or ribbit like frogs. It's hard to describe but I knew it from when I had them in a bucket and they were protesting loudly about their change of circumstance.

I think gardeners are masters of enjoying the small things of life and being uplifted by them. The sparkle of dew on spider webs, the iridescent shine of snail slime on the cement, the fighting words of sparrows in the jasmine, the scurry of a sow bug trying to hide,

the beauty filled wings of a butterfly folding and unfolding on a flower, the smell of ripe peaches on a tree, the red glow of a strawberry amidst the green toothy leaves, the eye to eye contact of a turtle as it watches carefully, the head movement of a praying mantis as it decides if it can eat you, the vicious wing whir of a hummingbird defending its favorite flowers, the deep humming thrum of bees in a blossoming tree, the raucous sound of blue jays as it flits through a yard, the transparent delicacy of a baby snail shell, the deep red and black of the dragon baby stage of a ladybug. All of this is constantly available at no cost. ★



Flood Irrigation Can Be Efficient When Done the Right Way

Having endured crushing impacts of drought and regulatory water restrictions, California farmers have embraced drip irrigation to improve their water footprint. At the same time, flood irrigation has faced increased scrutiny for being inefficient—even wasteful. But experts say that with automation and other design improvements, farmers could maximize efficiency with flood and surface irrigation systems. “It could be as efficient as other pressurized irrigation systems—and friendly to the environment,” said Khaled Bali, an irrigation water management specialist at the University of California Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier.

State Water Board Increases Rates for 2024-25

To meet budgetary shortfalls for water rights and water quality programs that require participation by farmers and ranchers, the California State Water Resources Control Board has approved rate increases, including for groundwater recharge projects. The higher fees come as California water users and local agencies work to balance critically overdrafted

aquifers under the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. “Farm Bureau is concerned that if the fees are too high, this will be a disincentive to doing the exact sort of recharge that the temporary 180-day and five-year, high-flow diversion permits were intended to do,” said Alexandra Biering, senior policy advocate for the California Farm Bureau.

Sales Rep Helps Farmers Find Solutions for Irrigation Needs

As an irrigation sales representative in the Imperial Valley, John Tamayo is on the front lines of the most ambitious water conservation effort in the country. Amid warnings that the Colorado River is running dry, farmers in the valley have undertaken efforts to conserve an unprecedented amount of water, some of it through the installation of more efficient irrigation systems. “I appreciate being able to play a role in that,” said Tamayo, who works with farmers to determine which irrigation systems are best suited for their farming needs and conservation goals. His desire to support farmers led him to join the California Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers program, where he serves on the State Committee representing Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

The sign in front of the gas station says “Unleaded, 3.39, special on Colt .357 Magnum, six-inch barrel.”

Visitors here in the valley do a double take when they see Vince's sign there at what we all know as “the gas station gun shop.” That's because Vince doesn't believe in being deprived of his passion while earning a living. His passion: guns. His living: pumping gas.

We had all known of his passion for many years. He is the perennial president of the local rod and gun club, plans nearly all their annual spaghetti feeds to raise money for targets. If

“And I've Never Been Held Up”

you want to go hunting, all you need to do is pull up in front of Vince's house on the edge of town with some hounds in the back of the truck in the evening and honk the horn. You don't even need to call ahead.

The combination business began about three years ago when an out-of-town customer pulled up to the gas pumps, walked inside to pay Vince, and saw the owner sitting there polishing a 1911 Government Model .45 auto.

CPR wasn't necessary, but it did give Vince some thinking to do.

“I looked around in here,” he said, “and saw all this wall space. What did I have on it? Fan belts, stacks of motor oil containers, those little air fresheners shaped like pine trees. What a waste! So

I put that stuff out in the repair side of the station and nailed up this knotty pine. Looks pretty good, doesn't it?

“Then I got my federal firearms license, bought a bunch of ammunition and some guns, and set it up.”

He says he's always sure to put a gun ad up on the big white sign, along with the gas prices, so people won't be surprised when they walk in and find him cleaning a Model 70 behind the counter.

“I actually do okay in the gun business here,” he said. “It isn't enough to be a gun shop on its own, really. We aren't a big enough town.”

And then he grinned and said, “And I've never been held up.”

For great hunting season advice and products, check out <https://www.sportsmansguide.com>. ★

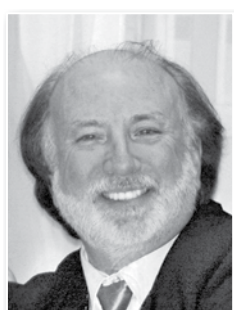
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by Jeff Pickering

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

POPEYE

by KIMMY HILKIND

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

GRIN THE BIAR IT

by Dave T. Phipps

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Cut of lamb

6. Numbers, abbr.

9. Friend from Down Under

13. Jonas Salk's conquest

14. Bingo!

15. Secret storage

16. Like a beaver?

17. Sun, in Spain

18. Knightly suit

19. *Can take the form of a certain flying mammal

21. *Spell casting

23. Between E and NE

24. Fisherman's fly

25. Away's partner

28. Biology lab supply

30. Offspring of alumnus

35. Month before Nisan

37. Latte choice

39. Filthy dough

40. Sound on a scale

41. *Homeowner's Halloween option

43. Subsequently

44. A deadly sin?

46. Competitive advantage

47. Assigned theater spot

48. Popular post

50. Biblical firstborn

52. What skeletons and skeddaddlers have in common

53. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex", e.g.

55. French vineyard

57. *Grisly

61. *Ghostly apparition

65. Throat dangler

66. *"The Murders in the ____ Morgue"

68. Actress Watts

69. Relating to a lobe

70. Songwriter Gershwin

71. a.k.a. tangelos

72. Pitcher

73. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy

74. River clay deposits

DOWN

1. Hightailed it

2. *Adjective for Merlin, hairwise

3. Aquarium scum

4. **Unattractive" Munster relative

5. Sl vakian monetary unit

6. Project Apollo org.

7. Exclamation of surprise

8. Pico de gallo, e.g.

9. Painter Chagall

10. Pinnacle

11. Chris Hemsworth's Marvel role

12. *Like decorated house on Halloween

15. El Chapo's organization, e.g.

20. MC Hammer's "Too ____ to Quit" album

22. Black gold

24. Puppy purveyor, often

25. *Teeth of #19 Across

26. Love intensely

27. a.k.a. honey badger

29. 0.405 hectare

31. *Blood and ____

32. Partner of pains

33. *Spooky house sound

34. "Fiddler on the Roof" gossipy character

36. Coral barrier

38. Gads, anagrammed

42. Mold a mind

45. Expel a lawyer

49. Ever, to a poet

51. Bluish planet

54. *#12 Down, alt. sp.

56. Sushi option

57. Stubborn beast

58. Swear, not curse

59. Type of hexahedron

60. Having wings

61. Black-eyed legumes

62. Sound of a bell

63. Fail to mention

64. Magnolia State, abbr.

67. *R.I.P. container

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CLUES

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Gridley Titans Football

Titans 8U

By Randall Huff,
Head Coach

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The 8U Gridley Titans had another tough fought game on Saturday, Oct. 12, against the Willows Jr Honkers. It was a wet and rainy afternoon. The Titans were ultimately able to come out with a victory with the final score being 12-0.

The Titans had touchdowns from #16 Morgan Ruggirello and #15 Julian Camargo. Our team captains for the game were #7 Ryker Huff, #9 Kanon Buzzard, #52 Ace Lopez and #87 Adrain Thao.

The 8U Titans will be back in action on Saturday, Oct. 19, against Weed Jr Youth football and cheer. ★



8U Titans celebrate a well-earned victory. Photo by Emily Jacquot

Titans 10U



10U Titans offensive line prepares for the next play. Photo by Rhonda Andoe

By Jason Davis Sr.,
Coach

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The 10U Titans were back home on Saturday, Oct. 12, after a long 4-week road trip. In the rain, the 6-1 Titans hosted the 4-3 Jr Honkers of Willows. An onslaught of Titans offense carried the day with the Titans winning 41-6.

Fumbles were also a big part of the game with the rain taking its toll. Overcoming a few setbacks the Titans dominated Willows on both sides of the ball.

On offense the Titans scored early and often. On defense the Titans didn't give up a single first down to the Jr



10U Nash Benson scores first touchdown of his young career. Photo by Rhonda Andoe

Honkers. Two Titans scored their first touchdowns of their careers in the game. First was Nash Benson on a one-yard touchdown run and the second was Sebastian Kneeland who ran his touchdown in from 5 yards out. Jesse Delgado had his first touchdown of

the season from 10 yards out. Other Titans to score were Boss Davis (2) and Levi Mowles (1) leading to give the Titans' impressive victory.

The Titans are scheduled to wrap up the regular season on Saturday, Oct. 19, at home. ★

Titans 14U



14U Titans enter the field for the annual 'under the lights game', a celebration for the eighth graders headed to High School. Photo by Rhonda Andoe

By Tony Luquin,
Head Coach

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley 14U Titans hosted the Willows Jr Honkers on Saturday night, Oct. 12 for their 'under the lights' game. A game of great importance for the players because it was their home send-off before they go on to the next level and play for their respective High Schools in 2025.

To make the night even more interesting, the game was played during the rain which changed the Titan game plan from the outset. The Titan

running game was going to be leaned on heavily due to the rain.

The rain was not a problem for Benny Zumwalt, who had a great game under the lights rushing for 150 yards and 3 touchdowns. A big reason for the Titans' rushing success was due to the great job the offensive line which included, Hunter Jacobs, Aaron Quist, Victor Vazquez, Rayden Vaughn and Jayden Dingman.

Even though the wet conditions were difficult to deal with, titan quarterback Alec Luquin was able to connect with Talon

Sannar for a 24-yard touchdown pass to end the game.

The Titans defense fed off the great energy the fans were showing, which allowed them to have another shutout game that included an interception from Elijah Broughton and a strip ball returned 58 yards for a touchdown from Hudson Oakley.

The Titans enter the last week of the regular season with a home game against Weed scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 19. The Titans hope to see all the fans out there to cheer on the Gridley Titans! ★

Titans 12U

By Brandon Oakley, Head Coach

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, Oct. 12, the 12U Gridley Titans football team hosted the Willows Jr Honkers.

The 12U Jr Honkers came into the game in second place in the division with only one loss, and they were averaging around 35 points a game.

The Titans and Jr Honkers battled hard all four quarters of the game. The Jr Honkers were held to eight points but ultimately won the game with a score of 0-8. The loss brings the 12U Titans' record to 4-4. The Titans are scheduled to play Weed on Saturday, Oct. 19, at home, and a victory could send the Titans to the playoffs. ★



12U Titans rally to the ball of defense. Photo by Rhonda Andoe

Bulldogs Fight but Fall Against Trojans

Story and photos by
Dillon Longmire

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - In their first league game of the season, the Gridley Bulldogs traveled to Orland to take on the Trojans, on Friday, Oct. 11. After an unscheduled bye week, the Bulldogs battled hard but ultimately fell short against the division-leading Orland Trojans on the Trojan homecoming night. The final score was Trojans 35, Bulldogs 17.

The Bulldogs started off with the ball and instantly went to quarterback Gus

Scotsdill who did almost everything himself. With four designed quarterback runs, Scotsdill tried his best to light a fire for the Bulldogs, on that first drive, but ended up throwing a pass that tipped off the receiver's hands and was intercepted by the Trojan defense. If not for an Orland penalty on the play, the interception would have certainly been run back for a touchdown.

Orland then tried to establish their running attack with six straight rushing attempts but were eventually forced to punt. The defense for both teams

would hold up on three straight drives as each team traded punts until Orland got the ball for their third drive, after a short punt from Gridley. Orland, with a short field, would attack the Bulldogs with a balance of passes and runs, ultimately driving for their first touchdown of the game from senior running back Manny Rodriguez. After a successful point after attempt, the score was 7-0.

Gridley would then get the ball back and on the first play from scrimmage senior running back Luis Murillo took the ball all

the way to the Trojan end zone and just like that, the game was tied 7-7. The Bulldog defense would force a turnover on downs on the proceeding Orland possession sparking the Bulldog offense to march down the field with a long 13-play drive that had runs, passes, penalties and timeouts. It was just enough for the Bulldogs to get into field goal range and make the score 7-10 going into halftime and stunning the Orland homecoming crowd.

The second half would start with the Bulldog's senior outside linebacker Nathan Zumwalt catching his second interception of the game from Trojan junior quarterback Luke Schager and setting up the Bulldog offense on a short field. The Bulldogs would then go back to Scotsdill who would run it in for a touchdown in just five plays, making the score 7-17 early in the third quarter.



Bulldog head coach Dan Zumwalt watching the defense.

The game would then take an unexpected turn for the Bulldogs as Orland would get the ball back and make up for their turnover with a drive filled entirely with running plays. After seven rushing attempts, Trojan running back Manny Rodriguez would push it in for a touchdown making the score 14-17.

After a four and out for the Bulldogs, Orland quarterback Luke Schager would score a long running touchdown on just the second play of the drive, and then do the same thing but on the first play of the Trojan's next drive, making the score 28-17 at the end of the third quarter.

The Bulldogs would try

to get back into the game in the fourth quarter by throwing the ball, but a mix of receivers dropping passes, good coverage by the Trojans and missed throws by the quarterback would doom the Bulldogs, and effectively end the game. The Trojans would end up scoring again late in the fourth making the final score 35-17, giving the Trojans a win both in their homecoming game and first league game.

The Orland Trojans will be on the road Friday, Oct. 18, against Las Plumas while the Gridley Bulldogs will look to get back in the win column at home against the Oroville Tigers also on Oct. 18, both games after press time. ★



Gridley quarterback Gus Scotsdill throwing to a receiver.



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