



**Defense Dominates  
in Playoff Win  
Over Panthers**

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Readers A Happy  
Thanksgiving**



# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 22, 2024 • VOL. 144 NO. 47

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## Gridley Honors Retired Police Chief Harr



Mayor Mike Farr, left, awards former Police Chief Rodney Harr, center, with a special proclamation, joined by new Police Chief Todd Farr.

**Story and photos  
by Connie Voss**

**GRIDLEY (MPG)** - At the Nov. 19 City Council meeting, a special recognition was given to outgoing Gridley Police Chief, Rodney Harr. Many colleagues and friends turned out for the event.

Mayor Mike Farr read an official proclamation as a tribute to the many years of service that Harr gave as

Chief of Police to the cities of Gridley and Biggs. Similar framed proclamations were presented on behalf of Congressman Doug LaMalfa, by Teri DuBose and Senator Brian Dahle by Tasha Weaver.

Harr served on the force for 33 years. Of those years, he advanced to the roles of detective, narcotics detective, sergeant in 2009, lieutenant in 2019 and was promoted to chief in 2020 during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Harr spent a great deal of time imparting his exemplary skills and knowledge in the mentoring of other officers, while maintaining the highest standards. Harr's institutional and policy knowledge, integrity and expertise made a lasting impression on Gridley and all those with whom he associated.

Harr's wife, Becky, has served as

*Continued on page 3*

## Biggs Hires Wagner as Interim City Administrator

**By Connie Voss**

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - On Nov. 12, Biggs City Council voted to hire Gridley's former City Administrator Cliff Wagner to serve as interim city administrator during the continued absence of Josh Cook.

Wagner addressed the mayor and council, outlining his many years of experience and suitability for the position.

"While I served as the administrator of Gridley, one of the things that I worked very hard to accomplish was at the staff level, with as much transparency and to avoid controversy whenever and wherever possible," Wagner said.

Wagner said that his goal is to be visible and available for appointments with anyone.

Voting by the council was unanimous, with plans to draw up a contract for 32 hours per week at \$75 per hour.

Items on the Consent Calendar were all approved, with the exception of Item A regarding warrants for October in the amount of \$554,980.58, some of which had not been reviewed.

Department reports were next on the agenda.

Public Safety was first, including Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department. CAL FIRE negotiated a new labor contract that reduces the firefighter's work week from 72 to 66 hours. As a result, the city will need to increase the fire-fighting staff by one, adding \$40,256.00 to the contract for the current fiscal year. The council did not vote on the contract to allow time for further budget evaluation.

Next, the Public Work department reported on the previously-suggested Landscape Services Agreement that would be "as needed" or "on-call." The item was tabled for discussion until spring 2025.

The Planning Department provided an informational update on the home to be built at 328 Aleut St. Some revisions to the original plan have been made.

An Engineering Department report followed, regarding the 2nd Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Project. Some details were presented about the NEA compliant ramps, high visibility crosswalks, a bike lane and some street parking. Five bids were received

*Continued on page 3*

## GHS Renaissance Dinner Continues Performing Arts Tradition



The Gridley High School seniors in the drama program presented the first skit. From left are Will Yost, Ruby Rosas, Christian Harshbarger, Kaiza Quist, Cody Grover, McKenna Swanson and Zackary Bonnifet.

**Story and photos  
by Cindy Scott**

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - For more than 30 years, the Gridley High School (GHS) Renaissance Dinner has provided a welcome performing arts opportunity for many students, entertained the community, and raised funds for the Gridley High School

Band and Drama programs.

"It's definitely more than just a fundraiser, especially for us kids. It's joy. We go to practices, we have fun, we hang out, we laugh, we get close and it's a form of art," said senior McKenna Swanson. "Being able to have a chance to perform in front of people, I'm super grateful for that."

Students performed comedy

skits, dances and songs. The jester told jokes and collected jokes from the audience. Those attending paid the Queen to put ne'er-do-wells in the dungeon, with others paying to release them. The evening ended with the song "Homeward Bound," traditionally sung by the Gridley High School Choir and choir alumni.

*Continued on page 2*

# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Sophia Jacobsen (yes that Sophia - from Richvale) wanted to remind everyone about the Free Community clothing and toy exchange that'll be Wednesday, December 11 from four to 7:00 PM at 400 Spruce St. Drop off date is Tuesday, December 10 between four and seven and four. Everybody can come shop on Wednesday, December 11 from four to seven. Only bring clean and undamaged things. If you don't have room in your garbage can for your damaged and unclean things, there's a dumpster there on-site at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Bring things to give away that will bring somebody some joy. This is a great opportunity to help some families who may not be able to get

some things for Christmas and it's a great way to get stuff out of your house and put it to good use. Everything is free. This is just a neighbors helping neighbors kind of operation. The best way to do this right is to start now by putting a box somewhere in your house and as you find things that could be useful to someone else, but are no longer useful to you put them in the box then when Tuesday, December 10 gets here drop them off.

\*\*\*  
In the U.S., journalists have unique freedoms and legal protections, including the right to publish government documents and protect confidential sources. It is one of the things that makes America great. The first amendment to the constitution was first because if you don't have it, the rest of the thing doesn't work right. But those rights are under review at the United States Supreme Court. A journalist is facing financial ruin and potential jail time for refusing to reveal sources in a 2017 story about a Chinese scientist. The scientist, who faced no charges, later sued

the government, alleging leaks to the journalist damaged their reputation. When government officials couldn't identify the source, the scientist's lawyers targeted the journalist. A federal judge fined the journalists \$800 a day until they disclosed their sources, stating that the need for evidence outweighed First Amendment protections. Press freedom advocates (newspaper publishers) argue this ruling endangers journalists' ability to protect whistleblowers. Ironically, the court barred journalists from parts of the hearings, citing classified government information (honestly not a good sign if you are one of the people hoping that the court thought journalists have the right to know everything). First Amendment Patriots are urging Congress to pass the PRESS Act, which would federally protect journalist-source confidentiality. The last thing we want is any local journalist or publisher to face legal action for doing their job.

\*\*\*  
Josh F.W. Cook is an educator and administrator. ★

# Holiday Events

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - This year, Biggs kicks off the holiday season with the first tree lighting between our three neighboring communities.

Don't miss some of the main seasonal celebrations throughout the Gridley, Biggs and Live Oak areas this year. For ease of planning, times and dates are listed below.

**Biggs**

From 12 to 4 p.m. Nov. 24, the Oh What Fun Holiday Event will take place at Biggs Community Hall, 280 B St. Enjoy

shopping with local small businesses. The first 100 people get a Christmas shopping bag. Free entry.

From 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 1, the Christmas Street Fair will take place with a 6 p.m. tree lighting, located at 297 B St.

**Gridley**

At 5 p.m. Dec. 4 will be the Winter Wonderland Parade in Downtown Gridley with a 5:30 p.m. tree lighting at Daddow Park. There will be live music, food and gift vendors, pictures with Santa, parade of lights and lots of family fun! This year's tree lighting will take place in

Daddow Park.

From 8 to 11 a.m. Dec. 14, residents can enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the Gridley Community Center, 200 E Spruce St. There will be breakfast, craft activities, a gingerbread house contest and visits from Santa and the Grinch. Paid entry of \$7 per person, while children 2 and under are free.

**Live Oak**

From 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 will be the Live Oak Small Town Holiday Celebration with a 6:15 p.m. tree lighting, located at the Community Building parking lot. ★

# Orchard's Tough Decision

**Orchard Hospital News Release**

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - For many years, the Christmas tree at Orchard Hospital has been a cherished symbol of the holiday season for our community.

After exploring every possible option, we made the difficult decision to discontinue decorating the tree due to safety concerns from the Gridley Fire Department, the extensive time commitment required and the expansion of holiday celebrations downtown.

This decision was not made lightly. Through discussions with the City of Gridley, the Gridley Fire Department and Harris Tree Service, every

feasible solution was considered. However, as the City's focus on its wonderful downtown holiday celebrations has grown, community support for decorating the tree has understandably been stretched thin. Additionally, the tree's increasing size has made safe lighting no longer possible despite everyone's best efforts.

While this change marks the end of one beloved tradition, we are excited to fully support and participate in the City of Gridley's downtown celebrations. These celebrations continue to grow and bring holiday joy to families across the area. By joining forces with the city, Orchard Hospital remains

committed to fostering a sense of togetherness and holiday spirit.

We look forward to celebrating downtown with everyone and continuing to create meaningful holiday memories. This decision reflects our commitment to safety, collaboration, and the community's shared spirit of the season.

Orchard Hospital extends its heartfelt gratitude to Harris Tree Service for their willingness to assist, and to the City of Gridley and the Gridley Fire Department for their past support. We thank our community for their understanding and invite everyone to join us downtown for this year's magical holiday celebrations. ★

# GHS Renaissance Dinner Continues Performing Arts Tradition



The Couples Dance of the Gridley High School Renaissance Dinner, "Kingdom Dance," from Tangled, featured, left to right: Shawnacy McGilvray, Will Yost, Ruby Rosas, Cody Grover, Kaiza Quist, and Christian Harshbarger.

Continued from page 1

"It was my gateway into doing theater and finding out that this is where I had my confidence, and this is where I belonged," said Swanson, who has participated all four high school years. "It introduced me to the friends I've had for most of high school. It's nice to have a thing where we can all come and be."

Ethan Jacobsen, in his fourth year as Gridley High School music teacher, continues the Renaissance Dinner tradition because students, teachers, alumni and the community anticipates it. It sells out every year and is the music and drama programs' largest fundraiser. The evening also



The Gridley High School Band performed three Renaissance-era musical pieces.

provides the fall performance opportunity for the drama students.

Band director Ethan Jacobsen thanked cast director Connie Quist, head cook Julie Thompson, barbecue extraordinaire

Jeremy and Joanie Grover and Shirley Lam, who helped in several different ways. Jacobsen also thanked the many parents and community members who helped make it a magical evening. ★



The Gridley High School Choir and choir alumni perform the traditional "Homeward Bound" to end the evening.



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# Gridley Honors Retired Police Chief Harr



Chief Harr (third from right) is joined by all of his colleagues who showed their support.

Continued from page 1  
a fellow officer, and his mother, Liz Lewis, was a dispatcher for many years.

The mayor invited the public to express their appreciation for Chief Harr's service. Former Gridley City Administrator Cliff Wagner, current City Administrator Elisa Arteaga, City Attorney Tony Galyean and Fire Chief Chip Fowler, among others, praised Harr's contributions to the safety of the cities of Gridley and Biggs.

Harr expressed heartfelt thanks to all in attendance for their unwavering support, especially, each City Council member.

"I don't believe there was a request that I asked



Another special recognition was given to Chief Harr by Tasha Weaver on behalf of Senator Brian Dahle.

for that was ever denied and from the bottom of or voted against. That's my heart, thank you very a rarely seen occasion, much," Harr said. ★

# Biggs Hires Wagner as Interim City Administrator

Continued from page 1  
and the low bidder was Franklin Construction for \$725,749. City Council voted to approve the contract for \$800,000 with a 10.2% contingency.

The big item on the agenda was the vacancies in the City Council and vice-mayor positions, due to the resignation of Vice-Mayor Chuck Nucholls on Oct. 10. Nucholls' resignation was accepted and there was discussion about how the vacancy will be filled. The council voted to wait until the Dec. 10 meeting to appoint a new vice-mayor after newly-elected council members are seated.

Applications for the council member vacancy will be accepted until Nov. 26 and a special meeting will be held Dec. 3 to interview the

applicants. Budget shortfall adjustments for Fiscal Year 2024-25 were discussed. Some projects, such as the 2nd Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project, were under-bud-

the budget and suggested a budget study session in the near future.

Staff reports were given concerning:

Flood Control — there is a \$9-million rehabilitation project at Oroville Wildlife Area to be completed in 2025.

Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control — A plane was lost a few months ago. The pilot walked away and is fortunately back to work.

A new airplane is being purchased for \$1.6 million. Residents with mosquito concerns can go to mosquito.com and fill out a service request or for any questions, call 530-533-6038 between 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays,

For schools, the weekly Bike Bus has been a big success. Girls' volleyball playoffs are underway and the boys' varsity team will host Weed on Friday. ★



# Forbestown Man Pleas to First-Degree Murder in Brutal Slaying of His Grandmother

## Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) -** A Forbestown man pleaded no contest to a single count of first-degree murder Nov. 6 in Butte County Superior Court regarding the brutal killing of his grandmother in January of 2024.

Kenneth Lewis, 38, was arrested on the morning of Jan. 21, after he called the Butte County Sheriff's Office to report his grandmother, with whom he lived in Forbestown, was dead. Upon arrival, Butte County Sheriff deputies and CAL FIRE firefighters located Violet MacGregor, 80, badly beaten and naked in a pool of blood in the home's primary bathroom tub. Additionally, signs of a bloody struggle were located in the grandmother's bedroom next to the bathroom.

Lewis was observed with swollen knuckles and hands, as well as injuries to his feet.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said sheriff's detectives interviewed Lewis after his arrest and he admitted he beat MacGregor with his fists and then kicked her while she was on the floor of her bedroom. A later autopsy established her death was the result of blunt force trauma that included injuries to

her head, face and neck, including a broken hyoid bone in the victim's neck and broken teeth.

Lewis further told detectives that the night before, he went into the victim's room and attempted to kiss her goodnight, but he became upset when she bit his tongue. Lewis then described beating the victim and stated that after he beat her, he dragged her into the tub, where he left her. Lewis stated he could hear the victim breathing heavily while she was in the tub, but he left to go to sleep. Lewis claimed it was not until he woke up the next morning and checked on her in the tub that he realized she was dead.

However, investigators located evidence he had attempted to clean up the bloody scene. Bloody paper towels and cleaning wipes were found in multiple trash cans, and blood smears were found throughout the home, including in the laundry room and a secondary bathroom. Ramsey stated this evidence showed Lewis likely spent the time after the attack, not sleeping, but attempting to clean up the evidence of his ruthless crime, while the victim was dying in the tub.

Lewis's sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2025, when he faces a sentence of 25 years to life in prison. He remains in Butte County Jail without bail in the meantime. ★

# Public Health Awarded Grant for Child Safety Seat Education Program

## Butte County News Release

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MG) -** Butte County Public Health (BCPH) has been awarded an Office of Traffic Safety Child Passenger Safety grant for \$274,000.

The funding enables Butte County Public Health to provide education on the correct installation of car seats and the distribution of no-cost car seats to eligible Butte County residents.

The funding also supports training to certify Child Passenger Safety Technicians in the region. The grant program will run from Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025.

Motor vehicle-related injuries are preventable, yet motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of death and disability for children. Butte County

data shows that in 2023, there were 1,529 crashes and about 10 percent of those crashes involved children aged 12 years or younger.

Properly using age and weight-appropriate car and booster seats can reduce the risk of injury by 71 to 82 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Based on inspections done by Butte County Public Health technicians, approximately 65 to 70 percent of car and booster seats are used incorrectly in Butte County.

To prevent child passenger injuries, Butte County Public Health grant activities for the 2024-2025 year include one-on-one appointments with certified technicians to inspect car seats, child safety seat inspection events and

education classes with certified technicians; distribution of free child safety seats to Butte County residents who qualify following education classes; train new Child Passenger Safety Technicians through certification courses; and collaborate with local organizations to train staff on child passenger safety laws and best practices.

Butte County Public Health encourages parents and caregivers to take advantage of the grant-funded services to ensure child passenger safety. To locate a car seat fitting inspection station or to register for a car seat class, visit the Butte County Public Health Child Passenger Safety website at [buttecounty.net/871/Child-Passenger-Safety](http://buttecounty.net/871/Child-Passenger-Safety) or call 1-800-339-2941. ★

MEMORIAL

**ROSE KOEHLER • 11/22/1932 - 5/13/2024**

Happy Birthday! Mom, today you would have been 92, but you decided to go home to Heaven, on May 13, 2024, to be with Dad, (Bill Sr.) and Bill Jr. We sure miss you around here, and I miss the many

trips we used to take each year. You always kept yourself busy through the years, working at the Biggs Nutrition Site, Biggs United Methodist Church, Women's Club, Lions Club, and Pink Ladies. You were

always volunteering. Thank you to all of those that helped with your daily care, and we especially appreciate those that made you laugh and encouraged you each day. Mom, you are always in our hearts.

## Butte College SBDC In-Person Business Trainings

**Financial Management Series for Existing Businesses – 3 Weeks, 3 hours per week Series (Chico)**

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

**World Trade Connect: Unlocking Global Markets for Business Growth (Webinar)**

Attend this free 30 minutes information session and discover the benefits of exporting & how the World Trade Connect Program can help you enter international markets with confidence. You will learn how exporting can make your business more resilient, increase growth & profitability, and how to tap into the 70% of purchasing power outside the U.S. Information will include Overview of the Exporting Program Customized for you: The advantages of entering international markets, details about the World Trade Connect program, and how the program can support the unique goals of your business; and The World Trade Connect Accelerator - a 10-week virtual program designed to help businesses like yours expand internationally with a structured, supportive approach. You will receive: One-on-one business consulting customized for your business; Funding Opportunities - Pitch to access up to \$7,500 in funding; Market Research Assistance - Identify promising markets; and Website Globalization Assessments - Market to a global audience.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 | **Time:** 9:00am - 9:30am  
**Cost:** Free | **Location:** Online (A Zoom Link Will Be Provided Upon Registration)  
**Register Here:** Scan QR Code to the right to go to the registration page.

**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

**Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for your Business Marketing (Chico)**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly beneficial to businesses and communities. However, very few business owners understand how to use AI to help them in their marketing and other business strategies. We will take a deep dive into using AI to develop marketing strategies, and contents, and will take a step-by-step approach to developing an AI generated marketing strategy for your business.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | **Time:** 8:30am - 10:30am  
**Cost:** Free | **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/>

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and a grant with the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. All opinions, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA, California Office of the Small Business Advocate, or Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation.

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](mailto:KonuwaSo@butte.edu). (530) 895-9017

# Cohasset Man Sentenced for Looting During Park Fire

**Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release**

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - A Cohasset man was sentenced Oct. 31 in Butte County Superior Court on a charge of looting during the Park Fire.

Joshua Keith Emerson, 49, of Cohasset received the maximum sentence of three years and eight months for burglarizing a neighbor's detached garage, stealing his Jeep and other miscellaneous tools and property while that neighbor was evacuated as a result of the Park Fire.

Butte County Superior Court Judge Kristen Lucena ordered Emerson to serve one year in the county jail with the remaining two years and eight months to be served on mandatory supervision by the probation department.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the judge made her decision based on the fact that California law would not allow her to send Emerson to spend his full term in state prison but only the county jail. The judge wanted Emerson to serve a substantial portion of his sentence in

the county jail with the remainder of his term hanging over his head as he is supervised by the probation department with conditions of substance abuse treatment, testing and job searches.

In the probation report presented to the judge as part of his sentencing, Ramsey said Emerson claimed he had to take his neighbor's Jeep in order to escape the Park Fire. However, both the prosecution and the judge noted that Park Fire had already gone through Cohasset four days earlier and called out the statement as a lie. ★

# Chico Pallet Shelter Arsonist Sentenced to Prison

**Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release**

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - A Chico man accused of setting fire to two pallet shelter residences at the Chico Genesis Pallet Shelter was sentenced to more than 10 years in state prison Nov. 6 in Butte County Superior Court.

Zachary Fitch, 34, previously pleaded no contest to a count of intentional arson of inhabited residences for setting fire to his girlfriend's pallet shelter at approximately 3:15 a.m. Aug. 5. The fire spread and ultimately destroyed two pallet residences and damaged a third at the Genesis Shelter, located on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway in Chico.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said surveillance footage at the shelter showed Fitch and his girlfriend were having a verbal

argument earlier that morning but both then left the area. Later footage showed a masked individual who was wearing the same clothes as Fitch jumping a fence into the shelter area. That same person was seen leaving the area where the fire started as the fire was captured just starting on surveillance video.

At the sentencing hearing Nov. 6, Fitch's former girlfriend addressed the court and outlined the financial and emotional impact the crime had on her. She said that she "lost everything" in the fire and has to start over in her steps to "get an apartment and start living as a productive member of society."

She noted, "Though I still maintain my same goals, this has been a huge setback." Restitution was reserved on her loss pending an inventory of the items lost in the fire.

An additional victim, Kristopher Vetter, 42, was

awarded \$1,800 in restitution for the loss of his possessions in the fire. His pallet shelter was the second residence consumed by the fire.

The sentencing judge also awarded the City of Chico \$42,398.20 in restitution for the loss of the two pallet shelters and damage to a third. The Chico Target Store was also awarded \$6,033.57 in restitution for a separate grand theft case for which the defendant was also sentenced.

Fitch was sentenced to the maximum term of 10 years and eight months in state prison for the arson and the Target grand theft, along with an additional punishment enhancement for committing the arson while out of custody on his own recognizance on the Target grand theft case.

Ramsey said half of any of monies that Fitch would earn during his prison term would be seized to pay his restitution debt. ★

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## "Sigma" Event

The 2008 crisis was monumental in many aspects. The massive amounts of money spent by world governments to stave off the potential economic harm of the real estate implosion had never been seen before.

The crisis was labeled a high "Sigma" event, as in very high. Without getting too technical, a high Sigma event is supposed to happen only once in a certain amount of years. High Sigma events could be said to have the odds of occurring roughly once in thousands of years. For example, a 10-Sigma would be an event that happens once every 5.249e+020 years (that's half a Septillion years). A 10-Sigma is more like a metaphor for something that can never happen or is so great of a number you might as well use infinity.

That said, in the last few decades we have actually had a handful of high Sigma events and each one larger and more devastating than the last.

Not only is a high Sigma event very unlikely to happen, it is even more unlikely that two of them would occur within a few short years. Strangely enough, we have seen a handful of high Sigma events in the last 40 years, something that, according to the Sigma theory supporters, should not have occurred.

In 1987 the market crash was deemed a high Sigma event, which was followed by another high sigma event in 1997 which involved a hedge fund called Long Term Capital Management.

That was followed by the dot-com crash, which was followed by the mother of all events, the 2008/09 real estate implosion which almost caused a global financial meltdown. That was until the CoVid event happened. Yet another high Sigma event.

The 2008 crisis was thought to be "it", meaning we had dodged the biggest possible bullet of all time, and did so by using an unprecedented levels of monetary stimulus.

All of the above mentioned market crises were high Sigma events, and each one was larger than the last. Subsequently, each one required more central bank intervention than the previous event.

The CoVid event was only supposed to happen once in hundreds of thousands of years. In fact, all of these events were only supposed to happen once every few hundred thousand years. Like I said, now we've had half a dozen.

At some point, seeing as we have had half a dozen or so of these high Sigma events, and every subsequent one makes the series of them an extremely, almost impossible occurrence in itself, we have to conclude the Sigma theory and it's

how its calculated is flawed, as in very flawed.

Either that or we must be very, very unlucky.

Whatever the reason, the more important and disturbing fact is that each event is requiring more and more monetary intervention. The intervention is in the form of monetary creation by central banks. Monetary creation is what it sounds like. Creating money. Some call it money printing and there are many other names for it such as stimulus, quantitative easing or asset purchases. Whatever you call it, it simply central banks pushing a button and creating dollars in a bank account. Actually many bank accounts, and mainly the accounts of financial institutions.

And therein lies the problem. Money does have value even if it comes from thin air, or in this case a computer key stroke at a central bank.

But in creating so much money over the last four or more decades, the amount of dollars floating around the world is very large. And like a rainstorm of bananas (if such a thing could occur) where the price of bananas would plummet, the "price of dollars" has also plummeted, which is to say a dollars "worth" has also plummeted. Translated into plain English, that plummet in value IS the inflation we are all witnessing.

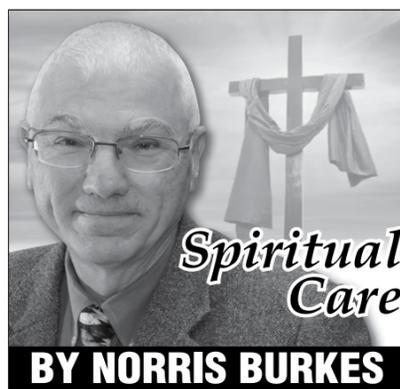
Simply put, the central banks of the world have been raining down money everywhere. A literal money flood of epic proportions for decades. And although the economies of the world in the aggregate amount to a vast bucket which can absorb a massive amount of money, at some point they can absorb no more without the subsequent and massive loss of value that each dollar possesses which now is now manifesting as horrendous and probably an unstoppable inflationary conflagration.

And apparently, that point in time has arrived.

Got inflation?  
"Watching the markets so you don't have to"

*This article expresses the opinion of Marc Cuniberti and is not meant as investment advice, or a recommendation to buy or sell any securities, nor represents the opinion of any bank, investment firm or RIA, nor this media outlet, its staff, members or underwriters. Mr. Cuniberti holds a B.A. in Economics with honors, 1979, and California Insurance License #0L34249 His insurance agency is BAP INC. insurance services. Email: [news@moneymanagementradio.com](mailto:news@moneymanagementradio.com)* ★

## Retirement, Really?



"Do you think you'll ever fully retire?" my wife, Becky asks a few times a month.

"Definitely!"  
"Mostly."  
"Maybe?" I say, adding an I-dunno-know for good measure.

She asks, because she knows I struggle sometimes to write this weekly syndicated column, travel to speak in different venues, and pastor a small church.

Trying to explain my reticence, I simply say, "I'm just not sure of the best timing."

In past years, you readers have sent me many emails with quick and sound responses to my writings. You've rolled out the red carpet for me during our dozen+ years together, hosting me for speeches in your colleges, hospitals, churches and civic organizations.

You've traveled with me to Honduras for Chispa Project, the charity my daughter Sara began for establishing libraries in Honduran elementary schools. Many of you are generous, regular donors.

When I think of full retirement, I'm struck with a sudden case of FOMO. "Fear of Missing Out." I don't want to miss out on more wonderful exchanges, meetings, and friendships this writing ministry has brought to me.

But alas, I've come up with a compromised writing retirement, giving us at least two ways to stay in touch no matter when I fully retire.

First, I'd like you to sign up to get my weekly column by email. You can do this by sending me a quick email to [comment@thechaplain.net](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net).

Or even easier, sign up for my weekly email at [www.thechaplain.net/newsletter](http://www.thechaplain.net/newsletter). The website also contains everything I've ever written or will write. Check out the audio versions of past columns too. Remember to spell chaplain correctly, not

chaplin. We've talked about this.

Second, while you're on my website, consider ordering one or more of the four books I've written. These books are a compilation of my columns from the past twenty years. And of course, I'll autograph them.

Keep the book on your nightstand or reading rack so you can read one 700-word story each time you crack open the book. You can read the books in any order and jump around between stories.

"No Small Miracles" contain stories I wrote as a pediatric hospital chaplain. "Hero's Highway" recounts my deployment to a combat hospital in Iraq.

"Thriving Beyond Surviving" is a compilation book of the columns I wrote about faith, family, fun and forgivingness. And my most recent book, "Tell it to the Chaplain" recalls my chaplain experiences in the hospital, hospice, and the military.

The last section of "Tell it to the Chaplain" tells the story of Chispa Project, so I especially hope you'll read that one. Thanks to readers like you, we've reached over 22,000 kids in Honduras get their first books by creating school libraries with my daughter's charity.

To say thank you, and "spark" you into action one more time, my family and I will be matching all reader donations up to \$5,000 postmarked between now and Giving Tuesday on December 3. I hope you'll take up my challenge for this ambitious goal. You can donate online at [www.chispaproject.org/chaplain](http://www.chispaproject.org/chaplain) or send a check made to "Chispa Project" to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602.

Every \$100 gives 4 kids a school library, training their teachers and parents, and providing books, shelves and colorful, painted murals. There are no words that can completely describe the joy that fills a child's face when they hold their first picture book. It's why I go back year after year to volunteer. (Details for 2025 volunteer trips at [www.chispaproject.org/volunteer](http://www.chispaproject.org/volunteer))

Finally, know that I'm not completely retired. I remain the pastor of Community Church, Nevada City, CA. It's a little country church of two dozen in California's Sierra Gold Country. They've been patient with me, but they miss me when I travel at least 8 Sundays a year as grandkids and foreign adventures keep calling.

Keep me in your prayers and thoughts, as I will for you. Thank you, for your faithful reading and support. ★



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# What's Brewing in Biggs?

By Seti Long

**BIGGS, CA, (MPG)** - Over the past few months, the City of Biggs and its City Council have been addressing the concerns of residents within their community and dealing with internal issues.

At the Tuesday, Aug. 13 meeting, Agenda Item 1 was the review of the Sixth Street Apartment Proposal, which would see the addition of two housing complexes creating 42 apartments and 18 single-family homes in Biggs. The project was to be located off of 6th Street, near cross street Dakota Avenue.

Further discussion on the matter was held at the Sept. 10 council meeting, Agenda Item 3 calling for further review and community discussion on the Sixth Street Subdivision Map.

The community had begun to express concerns to City Council questioning if Biggs infrastructure could support the project, and discussions between the project's facilitator Kory Hamman, Councilmembers and the public, both at City Council meetings and online posts, became inflamed.

On Friday, Sept. 27, the council held a special meeting and in closed session regarding the city administrator's employee performance. At that time, Josh Cook was serving as city administrator and took a self-imposed administrative leave.

At another special meeting scheduled on Oct. 1, council approved a Resolution No. 2024-17 authorizing "the City Administrator to Execute a Substitution of Trustee and Deed of Reconveyance" while Cook was out on leave and tabled some of the other agenda items until a time either administrative staff or their city attorney could be present to advise.

At the regularly scheduled Oct. 8 meeting, the council appointed Biggs City

Clerk Roben Benish as acting city administrator while Cook was on leave.

Meanwhile, the council continued to provide open discussion time on the agenda for public concerns or questions to be posed regarding the 6th Street housing project.

Another special meeting was called for Wednesday, Oct. 16, in which the only listed item was that of the city attorney requesting City Council's authority to retain Municipal Resource Group LLC (MRC) for investigative services.

Further details from that agenda simply outline that "Based on the nature of the investigation, the City Attorney estimates that the fees for this service are \$18,500, and requests reimbursement authority in that amount"

and did not clarify what the investigation was in regard to. The council voted to approve the investigation and allow attorney Greg Einhorn to proceed.

Again, Biggs City Council

found need to hold another special meeting Oct. 31, with a closed session discussion listed on the agenda as "Public

Employee Performance" entitled "City Administrator."

At the Nov. 12 regularly scheduled meeting, the council approved the appointment of former Gridley City Administrator, Cliff Wagner, as Interim City Administrator for an indefinite time period, presumably while Cook remains on leave.

At that meeting, Biggs City Council also formerly accepted the resignation of Vice-Mayor Chuck Nuchols, who notified the City of Biggs via resignation letter dated Oct. 10.

Additional information including detailed agendas can be found on the City of Biggs website at <https://www.biggs-ca.gov/Government/Agendas--Minutes/index.html>. ★



# Manzanita 4-H Helps Wreaths Across America



Pictured here are veterans' graves with commemorative wreaths from Wreaths Across America. Courtesy photo

By Connie Voss

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Manzanita 4-H club is participating in the nationwide program to honor fallen veterans called "Wreaths Across America."

National Wreaths Across America Day will be on Dec. 14 at more than 4,600 locations across the United States. The ceremony is held annually on the second or third Saturday in December. The Manzanita 4-H club is collecting donations to sponsor wreaths to be placed on the graves of veterans at Gridley-Biggs Cemetery and club members will help place the wreaths. The ceremony will start at 9 a.m. Dec. 14.

The program was started in 2007, by the Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington,

Maine. The motto is, 'Remember, Honor, Teach--Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.'

Within a year, more than 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries and more than 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. More than 60,000 volunteers participated, and that year, Dec. 13, 2008, was unanimously voted by the United States Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day." By 2022, 2.7 million sponsored veteran's wreaths were placed by volunteers at 3,702 locations.

Those wishing to sponsor a wreath for the local event can visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>. ★



## SPARKY'S CORNER

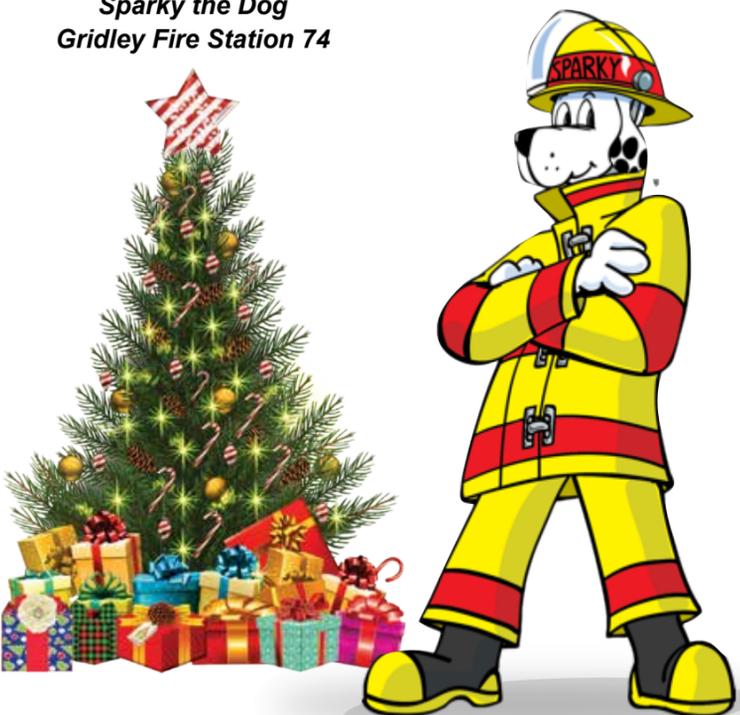
### Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

Many people choose to travel during the holidays by automobile, with the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation the Gridley Fire Department asks that you be extra careful while traveling this time of year.

- Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled
- Put that cell phone away; many distractions can occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit
- Properly maintain the vehicle and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Be prepared for heavy traffic, and possibly inclement weather.

Thank You, and Happy Holidays!!

**Sparky the Dog**  
Gridley Fire Station 74



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## Which IRA is right for you?

Two IRAs are available — the traditional and the Roth. Which is best for you?

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If you think you'll be in a higher tax bracket when you retire, you might want to consider a Roth IRA. Conversely, if you think you might eventually be

in a lower tax bracket, you might lean toward a traditional IRA.

With a traditional IRA, you'll eventually have to take withdrawals or face penalties. But you can keep your Roth IRA intact and even pass it on to your heirs.

You may not be able to contribute to a Roth IRA if your income exceeds certain levels. Income limits don't apply to a traditional IRA if you and your spouse have no retirement plan available through an employer.

Compare the two IRAs carefully — and make the choice that's right for you.

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## Riley Reviews

“RED ONE” HOLIDAY ACTION COMEDY;  
“ABSOLUTION” FOR A CRIME STORY

**A Film and TV Review  
by Tim Riley**

### “RED ONE” RATED PG-13

What exactly is the holiday cheer to be found in “Red One,” a picture that has action and comedy along with a heavy dose of surreal fantasy which seems a lot more like science-fiction drama than a celebration of the Christmas spirit?

Well-known actors take center stage with Dwayne Johnson displaying qualities befitting his physical persona of “The Rock” and Chris Evans shedding his Captain America image for that of a scoundrel with a skewed moral compass.

The titular character for “Red One” is J.K. Simmons’ Santa Claus, or known to his family and friends as Nick, who has the code name “Red One” for his security detail, and we thought only U.S. presidents had code names bestowed by the Secret Service.

We first see Chris Evans’ Jack O’Malley as a delinquent youth acting like a shake-down artist. In adulthood, Jack is a deadbeat dad completely lacking in scruples when stealing other people’s lattes and newspapers before retreating to his job of hacking computers and being a tracker for hire.

With Christmas Eve around the corner, the North Pole comes under attack by evil forces connected to the Christmas witch Gryla (Kiernan Shipka), who wants to punish all the allegedly naughty people in the world and not just children.

The first step in Gryla’s misguided plan is the abduction of Santa Claus to be imprisoned in a fortified snow globe, so that Nick won’t be able to fulfill his yuletide mission of delivering presents.

Operating under the underground moniker “The Wolf,” Jack is surprised as anyone that Santa’s head of security, Callum Drift (Dwayne Johnson), has noticed his apparently inadvertent disclosure of the location of Santa’s domain to the bad guys.

Considering that the unattached Jack is estranged not only from his son and the boy’s mother, one can easily figure that a reconciliation with his offspring, Dylan (Wesley Kimmel), is in the offing since this is a Christmas movie after all.

But first, Jack reluctantly joins Callum in an odd couple buddy team in the hunt for Santa, facing off against an assortment of otherworldly henchmen, including Santa’s estranged brother Krampus (Kristofer Hivju) who looks like a cross between a Viking warrior and a horned space demon.

One of Callum’s neat tricks is a shape-shifting ability to respond to physical attacks, as well as turning toy cars into real ones for chase scenes and action figures into fighting machines.

The banter, such as it is, between stoic

Callum and sardonic Jack is pretty much the comedic element here. “Red One” offers enough diversion to be enjoyably watchable for the most part and that may be enough.

### “ABSOLUTION” RATED R

Ever since the 2008 action thriller “Taken” about a former CIA operative tracking down Albanian human traffickers for kidnapping his daughter in Paris, Liam Neeson has burnished his career with ongoing films in the same action genre.

Never mind that Neeson is now in the eighth decade of his life, he appears not to be slowing down in taking roles where a certain amount of mayhem and rough physical activity remains obligatory.

Unlike his usual good guy on a virtuous mission, Neeson’s character, only fittingly known as Thug, is an aging gangster who attempts to reconnect with his estranged children to rectify his personal failings.

Thug’s desire for absolution has much to do with a terminal illness with the incapacitating neurological malady of CTE, which usually afflicts athletes suffering too many concussions. Too many blows to the head apparently have happened to Thug, a former boxer.

Even though Thug is fading mentally and physically, he’s still capable of responding to deadly threats with his own lethality. The mystery centers on who wants to eliminate Thug before irreversible brain damage takes its deadly toll.

Having worked for crime boss Charlie Conner (Ron Perlman) for decades, Thug is tasked with providing tutelage to Conner’s lunkhead son Kyle (Daniel Diemer) to learn the ropes to eventually to take over his father’s criminal enterprise.

Meanwhile, Thug would like to repair what might be a lifetime of anguish for his alienated daughter Daisy (Frankie Shaw), who really wants nothing to do with her father, even though her young son Dre (Terrence Pulliam) appears curious about the mysterious grandfather.

Reconnecting with family is not helped when Thug can’t remember the name of his deceased son or where he’s buried. Perhaps he should have family information on the notebook used to keep track of things.

Don’t expect this film to be a non-stop action picture. It’s about an hour into the story before Thug even throws a punch, and while violence is toned down, the killer instinct of an aging criminal still emerges when the occasion arises.

The pace of “Absolution” is probably not exactly what fans of a righteous avengers usually played in action films by Liam Neeson would expect. As such, it’s a bit of slog with intermittent action, and you might as well wait until it ends up on a streaming service sooner than later. ★

The Sacramento Kings were 2-2 in the past week, but that doesn’t begin to tell the tale.

Beginning with a disappointing 116-96 loss to the San Antonio Spurs and concluding with a thrilling 121-117 win over the Utah Jazz, the Sac Town ballers had an up and down week that ended on a high note.

Sadly, injuries played a role, sidelining big man Domantas Sabonis and newcomer all-star DeMar DeRozan, both with lower back issues.

In between the Spurs and the Jazz, saw the Kings take a tough overtime loss to a talented Minnesota Timberwolves team, and win decisively over the Phoenix Suns by the score of 127-104.

The real story of the week was none other than the offensive show put on by point guard DeAaron Fox, who scored a total of 109 points in back-to-back games against the Timberwolves and the Utah Jazz.

Setting a Sacramento Kings scoring record, DeAaron put the team on his back against the Timberwolves, scoring 60 points and shattering his previous personal record. Just one game later, with Malik Monk, DeMar DeRozan, and Domantas Sabonis sidelined with injuries, Fox backed up his 60-point performance with 49 more, this time in a win over the Jazz.

Thanks to the offensive explosion of DeAaron Fox, the Kings now have a player in the top ten in scoring. DeAaron is currently #6 in the NBA in scoring, and remarkably the Kings are the only team in the NBA to feature three players with a scoring average of 20 points or higher per game.

In addition to raising his scoring average, DeAaron is fifth in the league in steals, averaging 1.8 per game. I look for Fox to challenge the top spot in steals as the season wears on.

Overall, the Kings are off to an 8-6 start, and most pundits and fans alike are well aware that their record could be decidedly better.

It took a few games for DeRozan to become completely comfortable with his teammates, and that should be taken for granted.

Since the first few games, DeMar has been the perfect fit, and teams are having

a difficult time trying to figure out who the go-to player is going to be. The Kings are spreading the boy to everyone on the court including Keegan Murray, who has had an up and down start to the season as it relates to scoring.

Keegan has made a noticeable move forward as he has focused on rebounding and improving his defensive efficiency.

Domantas continues to rebound with ferocity, and the rebounding champion of the past two seasons, is currently #2 in the NBA behind big man Nikola Jokic.

Nursing a sore back, Sabonis is on the sidelines, and with nothing definite coming from the Kings organization, Domantas is day to day.

So, what kind of a report card should the Kings receive as they play in their 15th game against the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night.

I give the team a solid B, considering the addition of DeMar DeRozan and understanding it takes time for a starting five to jell.

Let’s not forget the energy and scoring punch that Malik Monk brings to this team, and the sooner we see Malik back in action, the better off the Kings will be. Reportedly, Malik has a week to go before he’ll be ready for any hardwood action.

Sadly, after witnessing what I consider to be one of the worst officiating seasons in the past 50 years last season, the zebras were back to their old ways Saturday night and were it not for Kings ability to challenge two horrific calls by the referees, the Kings would have likely lost to the Utah Jazz.

I have no answer for what the NBA needs to do, but clearly the officiating is sadly lacking in quality, and this has not always been the case.

I credit the NBA with putting challenges into the mix, but there is still more that needs to be done.

Meanwhile, keep the faith Kings fans. This team is showing a lot of bright spots, so let’s get everyone healthy and see if the Sac Town boys can get on a winning streak!

*All the best Kings fans!*

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

**FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane  
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • @ amy\_fortheloveofbooks

## The Lies of Alma Blackwell by Amanda Glaze

Get swept up in family history of mystery, ghosts, and hidden secrets.

Nev grew up knowing that one day she would have to take the "Vow" to become the town's protector. Her grandmother is currently the one who has vowed to protect Hollow Cliff, but with her ailing health, Nev's time to step in is growing quickly. While Nev wants to do anything but take the Vow and be bound by the town's borders, she knows that others will die without Blackwell's bloodline taking the Vow. A blood oath is all she needs to give, and if she doesn't do it soon, more townspeople will die.

Once Nev arrives at her grandmother's large estate, she jumps right into work, giving tours of their famous estate while sharing her family's legacy. But even more scary than the ghosts that haunt the town is the fact that her grandmother is sicker than she thought, and she will have to take the Vow as soon as possible.

To make matters even more on edge, a strange boy named Cal enters the gift shop looking for a job,



◆ Publisher: Union Square  
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult  
◆ Release Date: December 07, 2021

and while there is something off about him, she can't help but offer him the job. While Cal may seem untrustworthy, the things that happen when she is around him are even more unsettling. Now, she is even more anxious, as Cal causes her to doubt and question everything she knows about her past. Even more unsettling is the fact that he has keys to her past to start unlocking more than the truth, but lies shielding the truth from

being known.

As Nev delves deeper into uncovering her past, she begins to see Cal in a different light. He might be the only person she can truly trust, the only one who can help her unlock the secrets that have been buried for so long. Their journey together becomes a crucial part of Nev's quest for truth.

In a story of hidden pasts, ghosts, and family, the Lies of Alma Blackwell will take its readers to the California coast, a city controlled by a curse and one girl who holds the key to unlock it. This dark, gothic city has all the atmospheric vibes readers are looking for at the brink of winter; while also leaving readers with the desire to tour the Winchester Mystery House and unlock its many hidden mysteries. Amanda Glaze once again delivers a story that takes her readers deep into a storyline that will leave them flying through the story and looking for answers. Filled with family magic, flashbacks, secrets, and some detective work, this story is a perfect holiday escape. ★

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# California's Climate Rules Leave Working Class Behind



Ted Gaines

**Commentary by Ted Gaines, Board of Equalization Member**

The next time Governor Newsom puts on his detective hat and tries to get to the bottom of the “price gouging” that is supposedly driving absurdly high gas prices in California, he should start with the most obvious culprit in the state: himself.

Earlier this month, Newsom's California Air Resources Board (CARB) voted to approve changes to the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), potentially

adding \$.65 cents a gallon to the already punitive cost of gasoline. Although consumers may be recoiling at the thought of even higher prices, political leaders must be relishing the opportunity to make it more difficult to own and operate an internal combustion vehicle.

It's obvious that California Democrats and their national counterparts are pushing the state and nation into a rapid Electric Vehicle (EV) future that is having dreadful consequences for families and workers.

Of course, this leftist project is under the guise of “doing something” about climate change, regardless of practicality or without any cost-benefit analysis.

Newsom, for example, issued an executive order mandating that by 2035, all vehicles sold in California are zero-emission, a standard met only by plug-in electric vehicles. Although nobody, including the governor, can say with any precision how an all-electric vehicle fleet would change global climate, if at all, it's easy to see how current EV policies are

harming consumers today.

EV subsidies are forcing lower- and working-class fuel consumers to pay for wealthy folks' expensive electric vehicles. “Greening” the electricity supply in California has been a major driver of skyrocketing electricity rates. After all, what good would it be to run electric vehicles on coal power? This has pushed up rates nearly 4-times faster than the national average over the past decade. Pacific Gas & Electric's residential electricity rates are double the national average.

As reported in The Wall Street Journal, “California households owed \$2.1 billion in unpaid utility bills at the end of 2023, more than four times the amount in 2019.” While climate effects may be tough to predict, policy makers should have seen this outcome from a mile away.

That's not even counting economic pain caused by the never-ending attacks on the petroleum industry here, which cost jobs and add around \$1.50 in government costs to a gallon of gas, before the LCFS bump earlier this month.

Soon, Californians could be paying more in taxes and fees for every gallon of gas than some states pay for an entire gallon.

Elitist Progressives put unpredictable and microscopic changes in potential future weather ahead of blue-collar jobs and affordability today. It's no wonder that the Republican party is making huge inroads among working class voters.

These policy-induced high energy costs are one of the reasons why, when adjusted for cost of living, California has the highest poverty rate in the nation.

Between California's highest-in-the-nation gas taxes and stealthy taxes such as the LCFS, California is banking profits from oil that would make John D. Rockefeller blush. Poorer Californians, who already spend more of their incomes on basics such as transportation, are paying the price.

California is also about to ban Diesel RV sales in the state in a few weeks, choking off another practical, affordable living and travel option for our citizens.

It never ends. Just for once, I'd love to see a more balanced approach from our politicians that acknowledges California environmental policy is creating the nation's worst poverty. If that is a price the dominant political class is willing to inflict on our citizens, so be it. It would be nice to at least hear it.

But I stand with the working-class families who are struggling to get by and the many companies who are trying to survive in this hostile state. I support American sovereignty and American jobs. The government gas price gouging and reckless push towards electric vehicles must stop.

*Senator Ted Gaines (Ret.) was elected to represent the Board of Equalization's First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate, defender of Prop. 13, and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly ten million constituents in 34 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. For more information, visit [www.boe.ca.gov/Gaines](http://www.boe.ca.gov/Gaines).* ★

## CHP Swearing-In Ceremony Marks Milestone



CHP swears in 121 new officers on Friday, Nov. 15 at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. Photo courtesy of the CHP

### California Highway Patrol News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) proudly announces a major achievement in its ongoing recruitment efforts as it officially swears in 121 new officers, bringing the Department past its goal of hiring over 1,000 officers. This milestone underscores the CHP's commitment to enhancing public safety and strengthening its presence within communities across the state.

The swearing-in ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento on Nov. 15 marks the culmination of months of rigorous training for these new officers. Each will report for duty to one of the CHP's 102 Area offices throughout the state. This is the largest graduating class since June 2022, when 128 officers were sworn in.

“Two years ago, we set an ambitious goal of recruiting 1,000 new CHP officers – and today, with this class, we have officially surpassed that goal. But I want to be clear: that goal has always been about more than just filling slots or hitting a number. Each officer is the very manifestation of public service, of peacekeeping. Every cadet graduating today felt a calling to do right by their community and to make the world safer. On behalf of the state and all who call California home, I want to thank each and every member of this graduating class,” said Governor Gavin Newsom.

“Today marks a significant step forward for

our agency and all of our communities,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “By surpassing our recruitment goal, we're adding highly-trained, committed officers who are ready to make a positive impact and meet the evolving needs of California. We're grateful for the dedication and passion these officers bring to their new roles.”

The CHP started its successful multi-year recruitment campaign in June 2022. With over 21,000 applications submitted in the first ten months of 2024, the CHP has already surpassed last year's application total of more than 16,300 over the same period, representing a 29% increase. To accommodate this increase, the CHP conducts three concurrent cadet classes at its live-in training facility, where more than 250 cadets are currently in training. A new class of 160 cadets will arrive at the CHP Academy on Dec. 1.

Training at the CHP Academy is comprehensive, beginning with a foundation of nobility in policing, leadership, ethics, and cultural diversity. Cadets also receive specialized instruction in responding to mental health crises, vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, and impaired driver evaluation. Additional training covers traffic control, report writing, stolen vehicle recovery, assisting motorists, emergency scene management, and mastery of the California Vehicle, Penal, and Health and Safety Codes.

The CHP is continuing its recruitment efforts. Join us in shaping the future of public safety in California. For more information about a life-changing career with the CHP, visit our website, [recruitment.chp.ca.gov](http://recruitment.chp.ca.gov).

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★



A graduate is being officially pinned with his CHP badge by a loved one. Photo courtesy of the CHP

## Adventist Health and Rideout Recognized by U.S. News & World Report

### Adventist Health and Rideout News Release

**MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG)** - Adventist Health and Rideout is proud to announce that it has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-2025 ratings with six high performing marks, an increase from four in the previous year. This recognition underscores our commitment to delivering exceptional healthcare services to our community.

Our high performing areas include Heart Failure, Chronic Obstructive

Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Heart Attack (new), Kidney Failure, Pneumonia (new) and Stroke.

These recognitions highlight the expertise and dedication of our staff in treating a wide range of complex conditions. Adventist Health and Rideout remains dedicated to advancing healthcare services and improving patient outcomes through innovative treatments and compassionate care.

For additional inquiries or questions, please contact the Adventist Health and Rideout Marketing and Communications team at [AHROMarketingCommunication@ah.org](mailto:AHROMarketingCommunication@ah.org). ★

## Let The Games Begin: 2026 Campaign for California Governor Now Looms



### By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California has a lengthy — very lengthy — list of critical economic, social and policy issues that are very likely to remain unresolved when Gavin Newsom vacates the governorship 26 months hence.

The nation's highest levels of poverty and homelessness, shortages and rising costs of housing, exploding energy bills, an uncertain water supply, street crime, chronic educational shortcomings, a bullet train project that seems to be going nowhere, and multibillion-dollar budget deficits are merely the most obvious flashpoints.

Most were evident when Newsom was elected governor in 2018, promising vigorous efforts to neutralize them, such as his ridiculous pledge to build 3.5 million units of housing, but most have become even more intractable during his reign.

Given that unfortunate history, why would any sane person volunteer to step into Newsom's shoes? The fact that quite a few Californians are weighing 2026 bids for the governorship testifies to the essentially irrational nature of political ambition.

The next political cycle begins with no clear front-runners, which is a bit unusual. Rather, we have at least a dozen potential candidates, none of whom can claim more than

fractional support, plus one huge unknown factor: Vice President Kamala Harris's career plans after losing her presidential bid.

A new poll by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies confirms the lack of a front-runner and, just for fun, tests the possibility of a Harris comeback run for governor, ala Richard Nixon's vain attempt to become governor in 1962. While nearly half of voters surveyed said they would consider supporting Harris for the governorship, it could be as polarizing as her White House campaign.

“Considerations of Harris as a potential gubernatorial candidate are highly partisan,” the poll found, “with 72% of Democrats saying they would be very or somewhat likely to consider supporting her, while 87% of Republicans would not. Among voters not affiliated with either major party, 24% would be very likely and 13% somewhat likely to support a Harris 2026 bid for governor.”

Discounting a Harris candidacy, the poll found that another newly defeated Democrat, U.S. Rep. Katie Porter, sits atop the field, with 13% of voters ranking her as their first or second choice, followed closely by Chad Bianco, the Republican sheriff of Riverside County, at 12%.

Porter gave up her Orange County congressional seat this year to run for the U.S. Senate, but lost in the primary to another member of Congress, Adam Schiff, who claimed a Senate seat last week.

Among Democratic voters, Porter scores 22% support, more than twice what her most likely

Democratic rivals garner. Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, the state's former attorney general, all are in the 10-11% range.

Among Republican voters in the survey, Bianco and state Sen. Brian Dahle are virtually tied at about a third each.

The chances for any Republican to become governor are almost nil, given the overwhelming Democratic voter majority, but the state's top-two primary system makes Republican candidates more relevant against a large field of Democrats.

That tactical element was very apparent earlier this year when Porter faced Schiff and a third Democrat, Rep. Barbara Lee. Schiff spent heavily to help Republican Steve Garvey finish in second place in the primary, ensuring a November win.

Counting Porter, there are five reasonably viable Democrats who might run next year — not only Kounalakis, Villaraigosa and Becerra but Attorney General Rob Bonta. A five-way split of Democratic voters would make it easier for a Republican to finish second in the primary, as Garvey did, and indirectly help the leading Democrat to become governor.

Let the games begin.

*Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends.* ★

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## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO. 2024-0000665  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Green Clean, 5470 Cabernet Way, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
Chris A Sjostrom, 5470 Cabernet Way, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
Date filed in Butte County: August 29, 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: November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024  
GREEN 11-29-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO. 2024-0000854  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Troy Farms Hay Sales & Delivery/Troy Hay Sales, 1554 CA-70, Oroville, CA 95965  
Troy Gene Ingram, PO Box 84, Malin OR, 97632 and Samantha Anne Gilko-Ingram, 1554 CA-70, Oroville, CA 95965  
Date filed in Butte County: October 23, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 4/18/1993  
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: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
TROY 12-13-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO. 2024-0000763  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Divine Touch Skincare, 8 Meadowview Drive, Oroville, CA 95966  
Whitney M Riley, 8 Meadowview Drive, Oroville, CA 95966  
Date filed in Butte County: October 01, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 10/01/2024  
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: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
DIVINE 12-13-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO. 2024-0000861  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Shell Energy Solutions, 21 Waterway Avenue, Suite 450, The Woodlands, TX 77380  
MP2 Energy NE LLC, 909 Fannin Street, Suite 3500, Houston TX 77010  
Date filed in Butte County: October 25, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

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: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
SHELL 12-13-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO. 2024-0000856  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Harmony Holistic Detox & Wellness Studio, 6B Williamsburg Lane, Chico, CA 95926  
Michelle Thorwaldson, 10478 Cohasset Road, Cohasset, CA 95973  
Date filed in Butte County: October 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: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
HARMONY 12-13-24

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #24CV03476  
Petitioner Zechariah Elijah

Thomas Engdahl filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Zechariah Elijah Thomas Engdahl to Zech Elijah Steggall.

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 December 4, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department 1, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on October 18, 2024  
Tamara L. Mosbarger, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024  
ZECH 11-22-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #24CV03346

Petitioners Nathaniel Jones and Justina Wimberly filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Justina Lynn Wimberly to Justina Lynn Jones.

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 December 4, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on October 9, 2024  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024  
JUSTINA 11-22-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #24CV03618

Petitioner Cathleen Marie Greenwell filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Cathleen Marie Greenwell to Cathleen Marie Poor.

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 December 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department TBA, Room TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on October 28, 2024  
Tamara L. Mosbarger, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Nov 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024  
GREENWELL 11-29-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #24CV02600

Petitioner Sarah Danielle Sedillo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Sarah Danielle Sedillo to Sarah Danielle Sedillo Anderson.

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 December 18, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on October 24, 2024  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024  
ANDERSON 12-6-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #24CV03552

Petitioner Susan Edith Cliff-Hovey filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Susan Edith Cliff-Hovey to Susan Edith Cliff.

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 rea-

sons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing December 18, 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 November 1, 2024  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024  
CLIFF 12-6-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #24CV03573

Petitioner Lucio Acosta filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lucio Acosta to Lucio Acosta Topete.

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 January 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department TBA, Room TBA, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on November 6, 2024  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
TOPETE 12-13-24

## TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No. 24-69762 APN: 010-360-043-000 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE/YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 7/26/2022. 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. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The 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 the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: LISA MARIE BURNS, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, AND CHARLES LYLES II, AN UNMARRIED MAN, JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP Duly Appointed Trustee: ZBS LAW, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 7/28/2022, as Instrument No. 2022-0025257, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Butte County, California, Date of Sale: 12/11/2024 at 3:30 PM Place of Sale: At the main entrance to the Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$466,576.06 Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 210 LITTLE AVEGRIDLEY, CALIFORNIA 95948 Described as follows: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust. A.P.N #: 010-360-043-000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days

of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. 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 1-866-539-4173 or visit this internet website www.servicelinkauction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-69762. 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 1-866-539-4173, or visit this internet website www.servicelinkauction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-69762 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. Dated: 11/4/2024 ZBS LAW, LLP, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine, CA 92606 For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920 For Sale Information: 1-866-539-4173 www.servicelinkauction.com Ryan Bradford, Trustee Sale Officer This office is enforcing a security interest of your creditor. To the extent that your obligation has been discharged by a bankruptcy court or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy, this notice is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a demand for payment or any attempt to collect such obligation. EPP 41631 Pub Dates 11/15, 11/22, 11/29/2024 GRIDLEY HERALD 11-29-24



## SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 436

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIGGS AMENDING TITLE 11 BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BIGGS MUNICIPAL CODE

First read by title only at its Regular City Council Meeting held on September 10, 2024. The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend certain text of Title 11 – Buildings and Construction – of the City of Biggs Municipal Code, to provide consistency with the 2022 California Building Code.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing ORDINANCE was duly and regularly introduced and read at a public hearing held on the 10th day of September 2024 and adopted by the City Council of the City of Biggs at a regular meeting thereof duly held on the 12th day of November 2024 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Buck, Sheppard, Bassett, and Squires  
APPROVED: Brian Bassett, Mayor  
ATTEST: Roben Benish, City Clerk

The Gridley Herald 11-22-2024

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY OF GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Gridley will hold a public hearing on the project described below. The hearing before the City Council will be held at a regular meeting scheduled **Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.** in Gridley City Hall Council Chambers, 685 Kentucky Street, Gridley. All interested persons are invited to attend in person, attend remotely, and/or submit comments in writing until 4:00 pm on Monday, December 2, 2024, via email to [csantana@gridley.ca.us](mailto:csantana@gridley.ca.us) or via the payment/document drop box at Gridley City Hall and will be conveyed to the City Council for consideration. Remote attendance is available by Zoom.

The information to connect to the Zoom meeting will be provided on the City Council agenda available to the public on Friday, November 29th, 2024, located on the City of Gridley website.

**Vermont Street Right-of-Way Vacation** - Council consideration of Resolution 2024-R-045 to vacate the 80-ft wide public right of way to Gridley Unified School District

### Recommended Action(s):

- Staff respectfully requests that the City Council approve Resolution 2024-R-045: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gridley Vacating an 80-Foot-Wide Public Right of Way Known as Vermont Street, Bound Between Sycamore Street and Magnolia Street, Excepting a 20-Foot Sanitary Sewer Easement

### SUMMARY:

In accordance with Government Code Section 65009, if any person(s) challenges the action of the City Council on these projects in court, said person(s) may be limited to raising only those issues that were raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing. For further information regarding these projects, please contact Carmen Santana, at (530) 846-3631 or email at [csantana@gridley.ca.us](mailto:csantana@gridley.ca.us)

The Gridley Herald 11-22-2024

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL BY APPOINTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Biggs will accept applications for appointment to the City Council to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Council Member Nichols. The term of this Council seat is from the date of appointment to the installation of an elected member following the November 2026 election. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and reside within the corporate limits of the City of Biggs.

To be considered for the position, applicants must attend the City Council meeting on December 3, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

During the City Council meeting each applicant will be asked to respond to questions from the City Council to assess their knowledge, qualifications, and application details. The order in which the applicants will be called upon will be determined by random draw at the special meeting.

It is the Council's intent to make an appointment at the special meeting of December 3, 2024. The appointee will be sworn in by the City Clerk and will take his or her place on the dais for the remainder of the meeting. All applicants should read all published materials for the meeting and be prepared to fully participate as a Council Member if selected.

Application Period: November 13, 2024, through November 26, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

Applications are available from:  
Biggs City Clerk  
530-868-5493  
465 C Street  
Website: [www.biggs-ca.gov](http://www.biggs-ca.gov)  
Email: [cityclerk@biggs-ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@biggs-ca.gov)

The Gridley Herald 11-22-2024

# LaMalfa Elected Chairman of Congressional Western Caucus



**Congressman Doug LaMalfa represents California's First Congressional District**

**Office of Rep. Doug LaMalfa News Release**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - On Nov. 19, the Congressional Western Caucus Executive Committee unanimously elected

Executive Vice Chair Doug LaMalfa (CA-01) to serve as the Caucus' Chairman for the 119th Congress.

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Chairman-Elect LaMalfa released the following statements after the election.

"I want to offer my sincere congratulations to my good friend Doug LaMalfa on his election as Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus," said Chairman Newhouse. "Doug is a true champion of the west, given his strong support for the multiple-use mandate for public lands, proactive management of our forests, American agriculture and domestic energy production. It has been an honor to serve as Chairman of the Western Caucus for the last four years, and I am excited for the Caucus' future under its new leadership."

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as the new Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and to continue fighting for rural America," said Chairman-Elect LaMalfa. "Chairman Newhouse has done an admirable job elevating the issues that matter most to the West, and I want to thank him for his strong leadership and dedication. He's laid a solid foundation for the Caucus, and I'm ready to build on his accomplishments as we tackle the challenges ahead. The Western Caucus is a strong voice in Washington, and I look forward to working with the Trump Administration and our members to deliver results for the folks who call rural America home."

Doug LaMalfa is a fourth-generation rice farmer and business owner who has lived in Northern

California all his life. Doug attended local schools and grew up learning the value of hard work and community service. Doug earned his degree in Ag/Business from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Doug is a strong voice for the North State's agriculture and resources-based economy and for the first district's farms and businesses.

Doug was elected to the California State Assembly and State Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. In Congress, LaMalfa has been a strong advocate for limited, constitutionally grounded, government, fiscal restraint and lower taxes. In Congress he has worked to protect families from overregulation, ensure American farmers and ranchers can continue to feed

the world, and has focused recovery from natural disasters.

Congressman LaMalfa's district in Northern California has been hit with numerous catastrophic fires that have killed over 100 people in recent years. He has sponsored legislation to help citizens recover and change forest policy to reduce wildfire risks.

Doug LaMalfa's firm beliefs are that government should do no harm and that limited government means government should do only what people cannot do for themselves, in the most efficient manner possible.

*Congressman Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing California's First Congressional District, including Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba Counties.* ★

## LaMalfa Statement on \$1.75 Million EPA Award to Paradise

**Office of Rep. Doug LaMalfa News Release**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - On Nov. 18, Rep. LaMalfa (R-Richvale) announced that the Environmental Protection Agency will be awarding \$1.75 million to the Town of Paradise for the Sewer Regionalization Connection.

This funding, secured through Congressman LaMalfa's Community Project Funding program, is a crucial part of the ongoing recovery for the Town of Paradise, which has been rebuilding since the devastation of the Camp Fire in 2018.

"After the devastation of the Camp Fire, Paradise is making tremendous progress in their effort to rebuild, and this project is a critical part of that," said Rep. LaMalfa. "Connecting to the regional sewer system in Chico will improve the quality of

life for our residents and businesses, while laying the foundation for future growth and development. I am pleased to help secure this funding to strengthen our infrastructure and ensure that Paradise is built back stronger than ever."

Historically, Paradise relied on septic systems, but this new funding will connect the town to the regional sewer system in Chico, offering a long-term solution to modernize its infrastructure. The \$1.75 million investment will ensure that Paradise has access to a more reliable sewer system, promoting public health and safeguarding local waterways as the region continues its recovery.

*Congressman Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing California's First Congressional District, including Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba Counties.* ★

## Gallagher Makes Statement on Newsom's Special Session

**Assembly Republicans News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher issued the following statement in response to Gov. Gavin Newsom calling a special session of the Legislature

to 'Trump-proof' California:

"This special session is a shameless political stunt. The only 'problem' it will solve is Gavin Newsom's insecurity that not enough people are paying attention to him. There will not be a single policy implemented in

this special session that couldn't be addressed when the Legislature reconvenes in January. If Newsom is so eager to set up a 2028 presidential run, he'd be much better served by fixing the crime, homelessness and high costs that will doom his campaign." ★

## Assembly GOP Leader Pens Open Letter to President-Elect Trump



**James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District**

**Office of Assemblyman James Gallagher News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher sent

an open letter to President-elect Donald Trump, congratulating him on his victory in the 2024 election and asking for his help to address the most pressing issues facing California.

"From wildfires to energy costs to crime, California is facing serious problems. With a new Trump administration, California has a unique opportunity to make progress on these critical issues," said Gallagher. "It's time to come together to find real solutions that improve people's lives."

Gallagher has condemned Governor Newsom's call for a special session to "Trump-proof" California, calling it a "total political stunt" that doesn't address the needs of regular Californians.

*Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District, which encompasses all of Glenn, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties as well as portions of Butte and Colusa counties.* ★

## Economist Stephen Moore Says Rich Liberals Ask Why People Are So Unhappy

**By John Gimaldi, Association of Mature American Citizens**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)**

- In an online post on the morning of Nov. 5, election day, Stephen Moore – economic advisor in the Trump election campaign – wrote: "Some complain that because we've had elections where the candidate who wins the popular vote doesn't win the election, the system is antidemocratic. I would argue these occasional outcomes only make the Electoral College all the more indispensable in keeping our country intact. The system isn't perfect, and something needs to be done about the risks of 'unfaithful electors' who could change the election outcome. But just as in tennis, where the player who wins the most points doesn't always win the match, the current voting rules help protect our democracy, not undermine it."

Moore is coauthor of a new book, "The Trump Economic Miracle: And the Plan to Unleash Prosperity Again." He joined Matt Kane recently at the Association of Mature American Citizens for an interview for AMAC's Better For America podcast.

Moore noted that he wrote the book with Arthur Laffer, "who is probably the most famous economist in the world today. He was Reagan's chief economist. He worked with Maggie Thatcher. He helped many governors and senators and has been working with Donald Trump now for the last eight years as I have." Moore went on to note that "the book was really motivated by the fact that we wanted to have a very objective, concrete comparison of the job that Trump did when he was president. When we started writing the book, of course, it looked like Joe Biden was going to be the nominee and then they did their

switcheroo and they substituted Kamala Harris. But, she says, she can't think of anything she'd be doing differently, it's pretty clear that if you liked, Joe Biden's first four years in office, you're going to love Kamala Harris. Actually think Kamala Harris would be worse. She had the most liberal voting record in the entire United States Senate, even more liberal than Bernie Sanders. You can't go further to the left than Kamala Harris. She's no centrist or moderate. She's a radical leftist from San Francisco."

Kane asked Moore, when people in government such as Obama and others set these low expectations, is that due to incompetence and a lack of vision on their end? Moore said that "if you intentionally wanted to downgrade the American economy, you'd let in 10 million illegal immigrants. You'd lose control of your border. You'd lose control of your energy security. You'd lose control of your currency by running up massive deficits. You'd let crime run on the streets and that has all happened in America. I'm just one man's opinion, but the official data shows that Americans are right to be concerned. Just last week a new national opinion poll found that two out of three Americans think the country is going in the wrong direction. I laugh when you get these white, rich liberals who talk about, gee, why are people so unhappy? Biden's been so great for the super-rich like Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and other rich liberals who don't care if the inflation goes up by 5, 6, 8%. It doesn't affect them whatsoever. But if you're living on an income of \$50,000 to \$100,000 and you're trying to pay your bills and everything's 20 percent more expensive, that makes you poor. That makes you feel much worse. It makes you financially stressed out.

And that's what's happened right now in America."

Kane asked if Harris wins the election, will it likely result in a new, painful and stressful administration. Moore said that "Kamala is not even able to answer the most basic questions like what are you gonna do that's different from Joe Biden? Nothing? And so people are aware that Trump knows what he's talking about but Kamala really doesn't know what she's talking about. She doesn't care and I think that when Trump gets in, as I expect he will, I think there's going to be a new bounce in the step of the economy. People are going to realize that this guy's on our side and he did a lot of great things. I know some people don't like Trump's behavior and some of the things he says and, as I said, I don't always agree with Trump on every position. But he's a businessman and he does know how to make things work. As for Kamala Harris, I guess it's still in doubt whether she worked for one year at McDonald's. But that would be the extent of her business experience. She's been a politician or a lawyer her whole life and basically being a lawyer in the government has really been her job and that doesn't prepare you well for understanding how to meet a payroll? How to grow a business? How to make a profit? How to put people to work? How to make America more competitive?"

The 2.4-million-member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. ★

## Newsom's Administration Votes to Increase Gas Prices Again

**Assembly Republicans News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - To nobody's surprise, the California Air Resources Board voted Nov. 8 to update the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and increase gas prices. Despite estimates this vote could spike prices by another 65 cents a gallon and demands for more transparency from lawmakers, journalists and the public, the board approved the new regulation.

The vote to increase gas prices comes after Newsom's special session on gas prices, where new regulations have caused refiners to consider pulling out of California.

"This is just the latest example of Newsom and his Democrat allies in the Legislature screwing working Californians with even higher costs," said Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (Yuba City). "Californians have been clear: they cannot afford the higher gas prices this new rule will cause. Democrat politicians have stood in the way of every effort to stop this price spike - they will have to answer to their outraged constituents when gas prices jump yet again."

Republicans in the Assembly have called on the governor to stop the expensive new regulation and avert a massive increase in gas prices. ★



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# Medicare's Payment System is a Boon for Hospitals and a Bust for Patients

**Commentary by Dr. Jack Feltz and Dr. Michael Hagg**

Most people over a certain age are familiar with going in for a colonoscopy, a routine method of screening for and preventing colon cancer. What they might not know is that the cost of the procedure can vary wildly depending on where they get it done.

The problem is that Medicare -- the taxpayer-funded health insurer for Americans 65 and above -- pays hospitals significantly more for common procedures than it pays physicians in private practices or ambulatory surgery centers.

This discrepancy contributes to the swelling cost of health care in our country. It's also compelled hospitals to acquire

physician practices in increasing numbers. That saps competition, results in higher prices, and leaves patients with fewer options.

Medicare pays more to hospitals for a long list of procedures. In addition to cancer screenings, these include x-rays, chemotherapy infusions, and heart-imaging procedures like echocardiograms and nuclear cardiology, as well as follow-up appointments.

The current system is good for hospitals' bottom lines. But it's bad for everyone else. Medicare serves some 66 million older Americans. Multiply the price of millions of procedures by two or more, and the cost to the federal government adds up.

This system of unequal payments has other negative impacts, too. For example, it requires Medicare to keep

seniors' monthly premiums higher than they need to be. MedPAC estimated that switching to site-neutral payments -- in which the federal government pays the same for procedures no matter where they're performed -- would have saved Medicare beneficiaries \$1.5 billion in 2021.

And since private insurers use Medicare reimbursements as the basis for their own payments, premiums for their beneficiaries are higher than they need to be as well. The insurance company Blue Cross Blue Shield estimates that site-neutral reforms would save people with private insurance \$117 billion a year in premiums.

The double standard has encouraged hospitals to gobble up freestanding clinics and small practices so that they can charge

Medicare more, according to MedPAC. As soon as a hospital completes an acquisition, it starts billing for the clinic's services at the hospital rate -- without even making changes that might justify a higher price.

Ultimately, this consolidation leaves patients with fewer options to choose from when deciding on providers. And if all the health facilities in a community end up owned by the same hospital or health system, then there's no competition to drive better quality or pricing for patients.

The solution is for Medicare to establish site-neutral payments. Such reforms would disincentivize large hospital groups from buying up independent outpatient clinics or the surgery centers where doctors in private practice perform procedures.

In the bigger picture, site-neutral payments would decrease overall healthcare spending. According to the American Action Forum, adopting them would save Medicare \$153 billion over 10 years and the healthcare system as a whole \$672 billion.

It makes little sense to pay hospitals many times more than physicians for equivalent work. Implementing site-neutral payments would make patients, taxpayers, and the healthcare system as a whole much better off.

*Dr. Jack Feltz is an OB/GYN and Federal Health Policy Chair for the American Independent Medical Practice Association. Dr. Michael Hagg is a urologist and President of the Pennsylvania Independent Physician Practice Association.* ★

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# Ask DR. UNIVERSE

*Dr. Universe: Can dogs understand what a human says? – Jonathan, 10, Illinois*

Dear Jonathan,  
There's no doubt that the relationship between humans and dogs is special. But does your best pupper understand everything you tell them?

I asked my friend Cassidy Cordon. She's a veterinarian at Washington State University.

She told me that dogs understand lots of human words. But dogs also pay attention to their human's tone of voice and body language to figure out what the human means.

Let's say you teach your dog that "walk" means you're going to take a stroll. Your dog friend might recognize the word "walk." But they might also notice that you're picking up their leash or putting on your shoes. They might pay

attention to how excited your voice sounds—and whether that matches your tone when you taught them the word "walk."

"If a different person delivers the word differently or if you say a happy thing in a different tone of voice, you may not get the same response," Cordon said.

She told me we know a lot about this because scientists trained dogs to lie down inside MRI machines. Then they watched images of the dog's brain while humans talked to them. They know that one side of a dog's brain recognizes words. The other side recognizes tone.

When the word and the tone matched—like saying "good boy" in a happy voice—both sides of the dog's brain were active. When the word and tone didn't match—like saying "no" in a happy voice—the dog might understand the tone but not the word.

A golden retriever wearing a maroon bandana



All dogs belong to the species *Canis lupus familiaris*. But there are 360 dog breeds—like this golden retriever. ©Washington State University

walks itself with its leash in its mouth

That's how human brains process language, too.

We also know that most dogs can learn between 90 and 165 words. That's about how many words most human toddlers know.

But there have been some exceptional dogs. The most famous might be Chaser. She was a border collie who learned more than 1,000 words. She could learn new words by inference. That's using information you already know to figure out something you don't know.

Let's say someone added a new toy to Chaser's toy pile and asked her to retrieve it by name. She could look at all those toys and eliminate the ones she already knew. Then she could figure out the new word must mean the unfamiliar toy.

That's pretty impressive, but it's still a lot fewer words than you probably know. The average 10-year-old human knows about 20,000 words—and adds another 20 words to their vocabulary every single day.

We also know that dogs seem to understand more when listening to a human they know. Maybe that's because humans have been building close friendships with dogs for about 30,000 years. Cordon told me that humans and dogs adapted and evolved together.

"We changed our behavior and trained ourselves as we trained them," she said. "That's why we can accomplish what we can with dogs now." It just goes to show that anything is paw-sible when you're besties.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

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# Adventure to the Peak of South Butte



In the foreground is Sutter Butte's cinder cone, remnants of a volcanic eruption that occurred 1.6 to 1.4 million years ago. This particular view is only visible from the peak of South Butte which, at 2,122 feet, stands as the highest point in all of Sutter County.

**Story and photos by Shamaya Sutton**

**SUTTER COUNTY, CA (MPG)**

- Pictured above is the Sutter Buttes cinder cone, remnants of a volcanic eruption that occurred 1.6 to 1.4 million years ago. This view is only visible from the peak of South Butte which, at 2,122 feet, stands as the highest point in all of Sutter County.

On Nov. 9, 17 lucky visitors summited South Butte with Tor Broadcasting Corporation members to take in the views and learn more about the extensive broadcasting and communication systems housed there. This rare and exciting opportunity was brought to the community as part of the annual California Swan Festival. "When I heard about going up, I was on it," said a local photographer named Victor. "I never thought I'd get the

opportunity." Said Liza Whitmore, a former Caltrans public information officer, "I'd heard a lot about this place and saw that it was opening up but to actually have a tour, I knew I had to get tickets."

The day's tour guides included Ed Hulbert, CEO, and Jake Kley, general manager of Tor Broadcasting, alongside employees Matt Ellis and Hayden Kalfsbeek. Tor Broadcasting is a subsidiary company of Colusa Industrial Properties in Colusa. Its job is to develop and maintain communication buildings and towers on South Butte in the Sutter Buttes Mountain Range. The Nov. 9 participants met about 8 a.m. and followed these men in through a private access gate off Pass Road in Sutter.

From there, guests were divided into specially equipped trucks to make the difficult

ascent up South Butte. Tor Broadcasting's experienced drivers headed out slowly, caravan style up a one lane road full of treacherous switchbacks. The jagged 2.5-mile path was pioneered in the 1960s with just equipment off the ranch and a pickup load of dynamite.

"Today, we probably couldn't permit to build the road and we probably couldn't afford it; the cost would be staggering today," Hulbert said. "You don't want people driving up here anyway because bad things are gonna happen."

As Kley maneuvered through a three-point turn onto the next steep hill, he pointed out a spot where he once had a truck's axle break on him.

"I dumped the material right behind the truck just to keep it from going over the edge. Then we brought the backhoe up to clear it out ... that was one of the times it scared me," he said.

The land surrounding South Butte is privately-owned, many owners being fourth- or fifth-generation farmers and ranchers. Through property easements, Tor Broadcasting maintains access to its towers and future broadcasting developments. Most of the previous South Butte tours have been conducted to educate landowners on Tor Broadcasting's operations and the surveying of current or potential customers. Trespassing is strictly prohibited.

"It's restrictive; we do a few of these tours but we're always sensitive to the landowners and the property we cross so that makes it difficult for us to do this," said Hulbert.

While the ride might not have been pleasant for some, the expansive views more than made up for the bumps. At the top, visitors had the choice of riding a tram or trekking the rest on foot to the peak. Those who dared for the latter were met with a steep incline and loose gravelly footholds that left everyone breathless. While

adventurous, those who chose the footpath opted for the tram on the way back.

"It's incredible to see it up close like this," said Mike Alexander, who works for Frank M. Booth in Marysville and owns about 10 acres of land near the Butte's base. "We toured Dean's Place as well yesterday; I think I'd like to become a tour guide for Middle Mountain once I retire."

With virtually no wind, Hulbert and his team remarked that it was the perfect time to visit the peak. They try to monitor the weather for days like this that make it easier for them to work and check their equipment. The only downside was the haziness which obscured a bit of the view. However, on a clear day, it was said one could see straight out 200 miles or so to the skyscrapers of Sacramento in the south and the top of Mount Shasta to the north.

"The views don't get old, the best time is the spring when it's green, but it's also cool when it's foggy because the peaks look like their floating islands," said Ellis, who has worked up there dozens of times.

The communication towers at the peak are bolted to square cement slabs embedded straight into the rock. A somewhat rickety staircase leads to a three-tiered wooden deck that wraps around various tower access points. Six air-controlled levels, two at the lower levels and four at the top, house all their clients' computers and circuit boards to protect them from heat damage. Temperature monitoring, control and an operational alarm system can be accessed and controlled remotely via computer or smartphone with internet connection. Two backup generators and a 24-hour surveillance system aids in both security and maintenance.

"Everything up here is built by hand, you can't take a concrete truck up this road, so all the concrete and



Tourists attempt to mount the last few yards of South Butte on foot following a series of game trails. This tour was conducted by Tor Broadcasting as part of the annual California Swan Festival.

all the big footings you see, they're massive, were all poured with a hand mixer," said Hulbert.

The first lower communication site on South Butte was constructed in 1967 by L.A. Otterson, founder of Tor Broadcasting, when communication industries were in their early stages and Otterson saw the Buttes as prime location for an antenna. In 1973, a lease on the upper side was negotiated and the first 240-foot tower was built by hand in the mid-1980s.

By the 2000s, the company needed more room and commissioned another 240-foot tower to be built. This one was constructed in 2008 with the aid of a sky crane helicopter at the price of \$12,000 per hour. Crews had to wait for the perfect non-windy day to get this done and completed the project in about three-and-a-half hours.

"The helicopters are costly but it's about time and safety for crews," added Hulbert.

The risk involved with climbing these towers can lead to abandoned equipment that could sit for a number of years before being dismantled. A few years back, Kley negotiated

the removal of a dish during the installation of a new customer's equipment.

"We don't have climbers so that saved us a bit of money," said Kley. "Sometimes it's about waiting for the right opportunity."

Today, Tor Broadcasting's site serves approximately 50 customers with PG&E being among their largest. Current services include two-way radio, microwave communication, paging, cellular, wireless internet, FM Radio, atmospheric data collection, weather cam, geological monitoring, wireless TV, education programming, law enforcement communication and ham radio.

Currently, T-Mobile is the only broadband cell phone company utilizing the South Butte peak. Kley explained that other cell phone carriers have started investing in multiple towers along freeways that can be easier to reach.

Tor Broadcasting said that its newest project will be to replace the aging 80-foot tower on the Lower Site with a new tower that meets the current building codes and will have expanded capacity. ★



A group of visitors ride the tram up to the peak of South Butte in Sutter County with members of Tor Broadcasting on Saturday as part of the annual California Swan Festival. Below is a short view of the winding one-lane road.



A series of staircases, catwalks and overlook decks lead to various access points to communication towers and equipment located on the peak of South Butte in Sutter County.



The interior of a community vault is referred as "spaghetti mess" by Jake Kley, general manager of Tor Broadcasting. This air-conditioned unit, located at the peak of South Butte in Sutter County, protects important circuit boards and computers against heat damage.

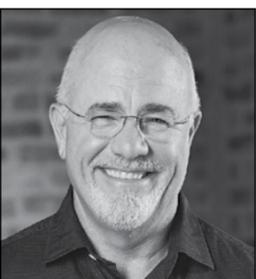


The crags and spires of South Butte intermingle with various communication towers, dishes, and antennas creating an otherworldly landscape



These expansive views are only visible from the decks of Tor Broadcasting at the peak of South Butte in Sutter County.

## Dave Ramsey Says When You Hit Rock Bottom



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I'm 20-years old, and I'm in a bad spot. I've been a jerk for the last year, not listening to my parents about anything. Now, I've got over \$10,000 in debt from running up bills on credit cards and writing some bad checks. Two weeks ago, I also lost my job and totaled my car. I'm about to lose my apartment, too, because I don't have the money for rent. A friend of mine said I could stay with him for a while, but I'm really scared. My parents say I created this situation all by myself, and I need to figure out a solution all by myself. Would you please give me some advice? I don't even know where to start.

– Justin

Dear Justin,

It sounds like you're about as close to rock bottom as a person can get. I know it's a scary situation, especially for a young person. I've done stupid stuff, too. And the

stupid things I did had lots more zeroes on the end than you're looking at right now. So, I've got some good news for you. There's hope! The simple fact that you're looking for help, and have realized the way you've been living is stupid, means you want to change. That's a good thing.

Still, when you do stupid things, you've got to pay what I call "stupid tax." I'm talking about the consequences of your actions. It sounds like you're going to have get two or three jobs, and find a really cheap car that will get you around for a while. If you do this for maybe 12 to 18 months, and live on a very strict monthly budget, you'll probably be able to pay off all that stupid tax you've accumulated.

I think you've also recognized the fact that you left your integrity and self-respect on the sidelines for way too long. That means doing the right things really needs to be a priority from now on. The cool thing about the practical issues you mentioned—finding an-

other permanent place to live, something to drive and paying off the debt—is that all this will get better because you've made a conscious decision to be better.

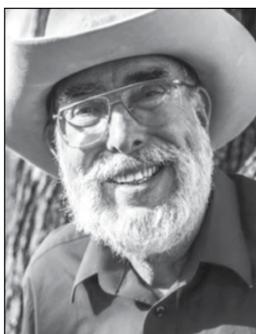
You might want to think about finding and regularly attending a good church, too. Any understanding and caring pastor would be honored to pray with you, and walk with you as you get your life back together and headed in the right direction.

God bless you, Justin. You can do this!

– 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.* ★

## Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

There's just something about falling in love in November, thought Steve. Something ... timely. Something ... special. Steve's incredible shaving-brush-like moustache is gray now. It's lasted a long time, there at the ranch and up at Steve's cabin, and it deserves to be such an elegant gray.

Falling in love, Steve said to himself, just couldn't be

*Something ... timely.  
Something ... special.*

all that terrific. November ... the Native American's hunger moon. The month of storms and danger, when smart outdoorsmen practiced being even smarter indoorsmen.

But Steve always thought there was a slice of flavor inside a November romance because of the month's hardships. Some of the longest lasting and happiest marriages began with a November romance. He silently recited several November bondings that appeared to be happily headed for eternity.

Women are truly wonderful, even in November.

They're soft and warm and cuddly. If a guy finds himself in need of a snuggle, a woman is at the top of the list.

Oh, a dog is okay, he thought. But a woman ... when it works right ... is the best.

Maybe someday, Steve thought. Have to think about that kinda hard this winter.'

After November. Nothing serious should be planned in November.

Unless, of course, the right woman should come along...

*Brought to you by Sweetgrass Mornings, by Slim Randles. Try <https://www.betterworldbooks.com>.* ★

## Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Now is the time to plant bulbs for spring surprises. The daffodils and tulips are underground developing strong roots and getting ready to shoot up in the spring with great beauty. When you buy bulbs remember to check whether they are early, mid or late bloomers. Once you would know that early bloom meant they

would bloom in February to March, mid bloom would bloom March to April and late would bloom May to June. This pattern is no longer guaranteed. Some years I have King Alfred blooming in February when it used to bloom in April. So, it's a bit of a crap shoot as to when they will bloom. It has to do with what the winter weather decides to do, where your light and warmth come from and the micro-climates in your yard. If you like the double frilly daffodils they will bloom later, usually in May or June. With the warmer spring weather, you will have to water these bulbs for them to bloom beautifully. My few doubles, show buds and are hit by hotter sun than they like

and shrivel unless I water them. Once watered regularly they will do their full beautiful thing. If not watered they will dry up and there will be great disappointment.

Smaller bulbs like freesias are always great and smell wonderful. Sparaxis, crocus and grape hyacinths are sure fire winners too, small but mighty. I plant my bulbs in groups. For the biggest bang of color put them by type all together. I plant the miniature Tete a Tete daffodils a lot because they don't get blown down with spring winds. I love tulips but I plant them in pots. I have very poor production after one year when they are in the ground. Go shopping and find some bulb bargains right now. ★



### Sonoma County Farmers Celebrate Measure J Defeat

The defeat of a Sonoma County ballot measure last week brought relief for farmers in the county. As of Friday, more than 85% of voters had voted against Measure J, which within three years would have banned large dairies and poultry farms in the county. The measure would have capped the number of animals each farm can raise, banning large farms or forcing them to downsize. Doug Beretta, owner of Beretta Family Dairy in Santa Rosa and president of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, said he was "ecstatic" so many voters had sided with the county's farmers. "The community came together to fight for agriculture," Beretta said. "When those results came in, it really showed."

### Brussels Sprouts Nab More Acreage as Demand Grows

As Brussels sprouts have become trendy on social media and restaurant menus during the past several years, California farmers have been able to cash in on the vegetable's popularity. "The market's really grown, especially the fresh market, and a lot of that has to do with the food shows on TV and chefs' artistic abilities," said Monterey County-based vegetable grower Jeff Hitchcock. "It's really put Brussels sprouts on the map." U.S. per capita consumption of Brussels sprouts increased from 0.33 pounds in 2011 to 0.78 pounds in 2019, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics.

### Agencies Identify Organized Farm Equipment Theft Ring

As part of a monthslong investigation known as Operation Tractor Pull, California law enforcement agencies have uncovered an organized agriculture equipment theft ring that targeted San Joaquin Valley farms. After conducting extensive surveillance operations throughout the San Joaquin Valley, authorities said evidence collected accounted for 24 pieces of stolen equipment valued at more than \$2.25 million. Authorities recovered \$1.3 million worth of equipment. "This is a large-scale theft ring impacting our farmers, our ranchers and our agricultural community," said Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux during an Oct. 29 press conference.

### Turkey Supplies Ample Heading into Thanksgiving

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discussed turkey supplies heading into the Thanksgiving holiday season. Bill Mattos, president of the California Poultry Federation, said on the podcast that despite millions of turkeys being lost to bird flu across the country during the past two years, "I think you'll find plenty of turkeys for Thanksgiving," including fresh California turkeys. Mattos said prices may be slightly higher on average this year, but that many grocery stores offer steep discounts on Thanksgiving turkeys to get shoppers into their stores. The episode also covered the efficiency of autonomous sprayers, water flow standards for the Scott and Shasta rivers, and crop damage estimates resulting from hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina. ★

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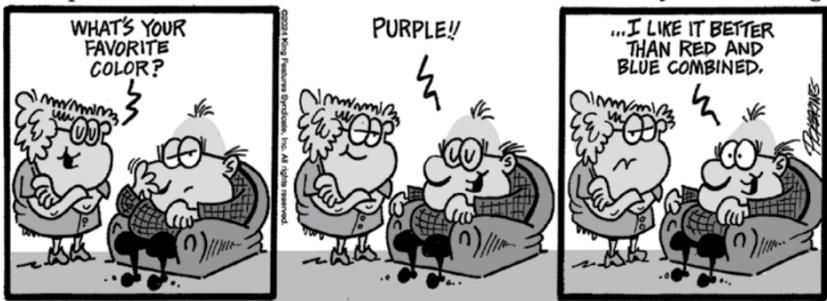
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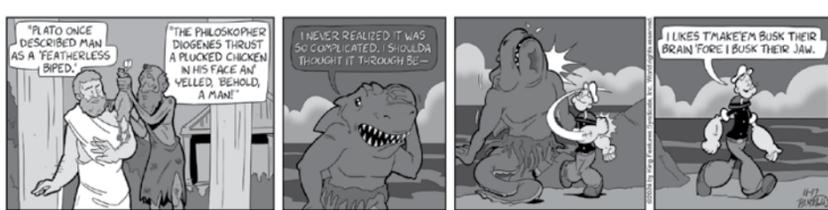
by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

## TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

## GRIN & BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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### CLUES

- CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS  
 1. Figaro's solo, e.g.  
 5. Not sin, as in math  
 8. Designer Laroche  
 11. Pi-meson  
 12. Cut, like a log  
 13. \*Telephobia, or fear of this device  
 15. "He's Just Not That \_\_\_ You", movie  
 16. 2D measurement  
 17. Gives a helping hand  
 18. \*Ludomania, obsession with \_\_\_  
 20. Therefore  
 21. Poetic feet  
 22. Accident  
 23. \* \_\_\_ mania, obsession with wealth and power  
 26. Type of throw, in baseball  
 30. Miner's load  
 31. Member of Round Table  
 34. Quartet minus one  
 35. Spacious  
 37. Last word of "America the Beautiful"  
 38. Young chicken  
 39. Cocoyam  
 40. Largest Asian antelope  
 42. Haute couture gala location, with The  
 43. Slimy phlebotomists  
 45. \* \_\_\_ phobia, fear of public speaking  
 47. Took the bait  
 48. Tempter  
 50. Dumbstruck  
 52. \*Gamophobia, fear of \_\_\_  
 55. September stone  
 56. Cantina cooker  
 57. Apple leftover  
 59. Lakes, in Scotland  
 60. \_\_\_ gin  
 61. "On a \_\_\_," or carefree  
 62. \* \_\_\_ mania, obsession with oneself  
 63. Cough syrup amt.  
 64. Additional
- DOWN  
 1. \* \_\_\_ phobia, fear of bees  
 2. Bananaphone preceder  
 3. Itty bit  
 4. Language disfunction  
 5. Indigenous person of Lesser Antilles  
 6. Track and field star, 1936 Olympics  
 7. Tear in pantyhose  
 8. Struck with a mallet  
 9. Back arrow key  
 10. Indeed  
 12. Against the stream swimmer  
 13. Say "pretty please"  
 14. \* \_\_\_ phobia, fear of snakes and crocodiles  
 19. Uncooperative, like a mule  
 22. "Battleship" success  
 23. Kind of mushroom  
 24. Grind down  
 25. Glittery stone  
 26. Carpet style  
 27. Lily genus, pl.  
 28. Angers  
 29. "All for one and one for all," to Musketeers  
 32. Egyptian goddess of fertility  
 33. Hair raiser

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# Wolverines' Season Ends in Heartbreaking Loss

By Dillon Longmire

**BIGGS, CA (MPC)** - The Biggs Wolverines battled but fell short at home against the Weed Cougars this past Friday, Nov.

The Wolverines season came to an unfortunate end when they faced the Cougars in their first-round playoff game. The Wolverines started the game with the ball and drove into the Cougars territory but on a fourth down attempt to keep their drive alive, they were stopped and turned the ball over on downs. The Wolverine defense took the field and forced a fumble to give the ball right back to their offense.

After moving the ball slowly, the Wolverines fumbled the ball giving the possession back to the Cougars to end the first quarter. The teams would go back and forth fumbling the ball on each of their following possessions until the Wolverines would finally score on their fourth possession when junior quarterback, Skyler Long ran the ball into the end zone. He would do the same on the 2-point conversion attempt and make the score 8-0 with just over six minutes to go in the second quarter.

The Wolverine defense would hold strong the rest of the second quarter as they intercepted passes on three straight Cougar possessions. The offense, unfortunately, would be unable to capitalize on the interceptions with a score, and the first half would end with an 8-0 Wolverine lead.

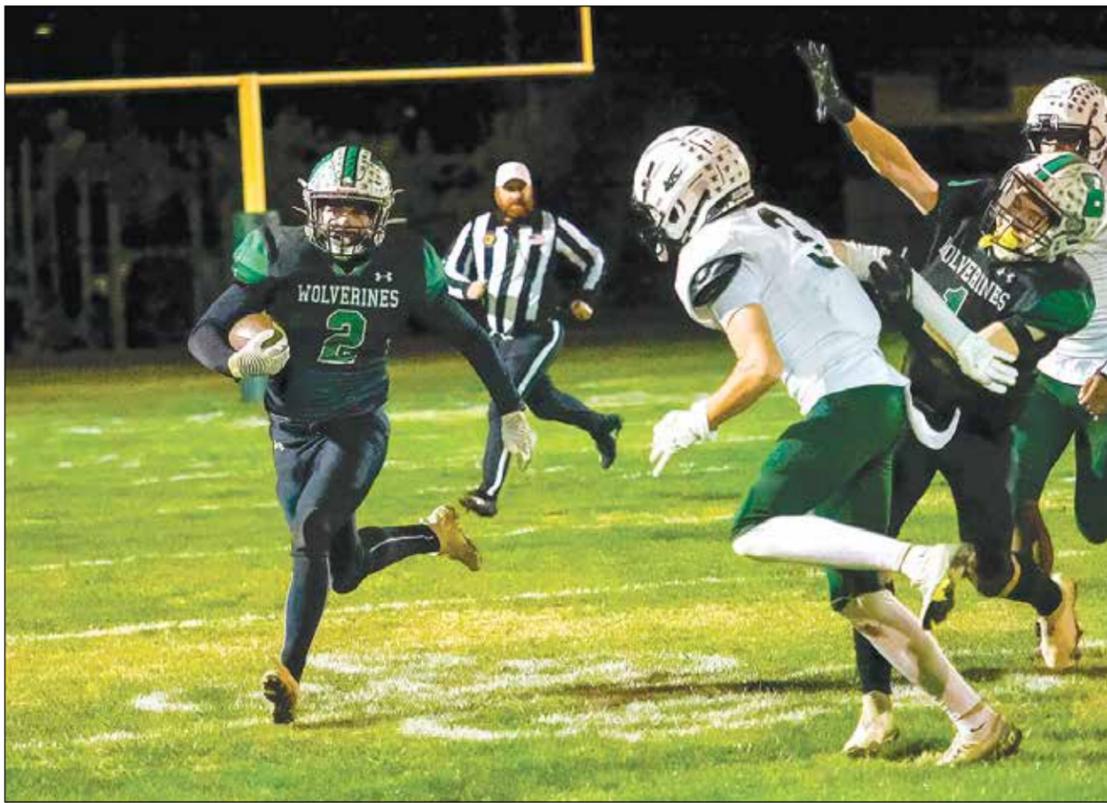
The Cougars received the ball to start the second half and moved down the field through their passing attack and eventually scored a touchdown on a pass from senior

quarterback, Marcus Horton to senior running back, Logan Bowles. The Cougars would convert on their 2-point conversion and tie the game 8-8 with just over 10 minutes to go in the third quarter. Each team would once again trade punts and fumbles until the Cougars scored their second touchdown of the game using the legs of Marcus Horton. They would convert on their 2-point conversion and make the score 16-8 with two minutes remaining in the third quarter.

The Wolverines would get the ball back and score in just one play off a huge catch and run from senior running back, Brady Smith. The Wolverines attempted another 2-point conversion but were unable to score, making the score 16-14 to start the fourth quarter.

The Cougar and Wolverine defenses held up the entire fourth quarter as both teams would trade punts. The Wolverines got the ball with just over three minutes to go in the game and had one final possession to keep their season alive. The Wolverines would move down the field and get inside the Cougar 20-yard line. They got held to fourth down and instead of kicking the field goal to potentially go up by a point, they went for it and were unable to convert, effectively ending the game and their season.

The Wolverine players were filled with emotion as their season ended. They knew the outcome could have been different if they would have had just one less fumble or one more play. The Cougars, however, will move on and face the Los Molinos Bulldogs in Los Molinos on Friday, Nov. 22, after press time. ★



Wolverine running back #2 Davis Long running out of the backfield against Weed on Friday, Nov. 15.



Biggs quarterback #16 Skyler Long dragging Weed defenders into the end zone for a touchdown.



Wolverine #32 Cashten Acosta returning a kickoff against Weed. Photos by Yuba Sutter High School Sports



Biggs quarterback #16 Skyler Long rolling out to his right looking to run or pass the ball against the Weed Cougars on Nov. 15. Photos by Yuba Sutter High School Sports



Biggs running back #1 Brady Smith breaking a Weed player's tackle as he heads for the open field. Photos by Yuba Sutter High School Sports



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# Defense Dominates in Playoff Win Over Panthers



Seniors Gus Stogsdill (3) and Nathan Zumwalt (25) leading the Bulldogs onto the field before a game against the Oroville Tigers on Friday, Oct. 18. Photo by Libby Tolman

By Dillon Longmire

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley Bulldogs traveled to Redding and took care of business against the University Prep Panthers in their first-round playoff game on Friday, Nov. 15. Final score was 26-10

The Bulldogs started off the game receiving the ball but were derailed on their first drive by a holding call on a play that would have been a huge gain through the air. The Bulldogs were forced to punt the ball at the conclusion of their first drive. The Panthers subsequently marched down the field with a balanced offensive attack before putting the ball in the end zone with junior running back, Tyson Wurzer making the score 7-0 with 4:21 left in the first quarter.

The Bulldogs would then respond with a huge run from senior running back, Luis Murillo on their third play of the drive to make the score 7-7 with 2:36 left in the first. The Bulldog defense would then hold the Panthers to a three and out, but the ball was given back to them on the Bulldogs' next series, after an interception thrown by senior quarterback, Gus Stogsdill. The Panthers would capitalize on the interception on their ensuing drive, by moving down the field and adding a field goal making the score 10-7 with 3:47 left in the second quarter.

The Bulldogs would then flex their passing game with two big throws to senior wide receiver Kaleb Sherwood and ultimately score a touchdown on the drive. The PAT attempt was blocked by the Panthers; however, the Bulldogs had taken their first lead 13-10 with 2:44 left in the first half.

The Bulldog defense would once again force a punt after only three offensive plays by the Panthers giving the ball back to the Bulldogs offense with 1:31 to go in the half. The Bulldogs



Gus Stogsdill (3) hugs it out with a teammate. Photo by Libby Tolman

would move down the field using the legs of Gus Stogsdill, but the drive would be halted after Stogsdill threw another interception as tried to force the ball downfield. The defense would hold the Panther offense, and the game would go into halftime.

The Panthers were set to receive the ball to start the second half, but the Bulldogs kicked an unexpected outside kick and recovered the ball, putting the Gridley offense on the field to start the second half. Their excitement would end quickly

after a fumble on a designed quarterback run on their first play of the drive. The Bulldog defense would make up for the fumble and force one of their own giving the ball right back to the offense. After a couple of big runs, the Bulldogs would score

a touchdown using the legs of Gus Stogsdill but miss the PAT kick making the score 19-10 with 5:37 left to go in the third quarter.

On the next Panther drive, the Bulldog defense would hold the Panthers to another apparent three and out. The Panthers attempted a fake punt-pass that went incomplete giving the Bulldog offense the ball on a short field. The Bulldogs would then move the ball down the field and get multiple first downs before trying a double-pass trick play that ended up in an interception from senior running back, Luis Murillo.

The defense would take the field once again and continue their strong showing on back-to-back possessions by catching interceptions. One from junior cornerback, Eli Punzo, and another from Gus Stogsdill, who was in at safety.

The Bulldogs would end the game with a designed quarterback run for a touchdown making the score 26-10 and giving the Panthers no chance to comeback with only 32 seconds remaining on the game clock. The Bulldog defense flexed their defensive muscle and continued to show just how elite they are. The offense, while scoring 26 points, had the defense to thank for their win after a five total turnover game (three interceptions, two fumbles). The Bulldogs overcoming a long bus ride, turnovers, and penalties shows just how strong this team is, and gives them momentum going into their second playoff game.

The University Prep Panthers will have an unfamiliar week, as their season has come to an end with a final record of 7-4. The Gridley Bulldogs have a huge game ahead as they will face the 8-3 Lassen Grizzlies in Susanville. That game is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 22, after press time. ★



A Bulldog makes a tackle to stop the Panthers. Photo by Libby Tolman



Touchdown Bulldogs! Photo by Libby Tolman



The Bulldog run game was a force! Photo by Libby Tolman