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Winter Wonderland Lights Up the City



Santa waves from atop a fire engine during last year's Winter Wonderland Parade and Festival. Photo by Chris Pedigo

By Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Once again, Gridley residents were delighted by the Winter Wonderland and Parade of Lights held Wednesday, Dec. 4, in historic Downtown Gridley. The annual event was sponsored by the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Mike Farr opened the festivities at 5 p.m. with a warm welcome and holiday wishes to all. Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce President Lynne Spencer then thanked everyone for coming. The Merry Songbirds, a carolers group from Sacramento, sang "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night." The Butte County Royal Court sang "We Wish

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Smiles were abundant at the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce Winter Wonderland Festival and Parade of Lights. Photo by Chris Pedigo

A New Mayor for Biggs



Newly-appointed Biggs Mayor Bo Sheppard.



Anita Wilks is a new Biggs City Council member.

Story and photos by Connie Voss

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The Biggs City Council members at their Dec. 10 meeting appointed a new mayor and vice-mayor: Mayor James "Bo" Sheppard and Vice-Mayor Doug Arnold. Both men bring plenty of experience to the table. Sheppard has served as mayor before and has served on the Biggs City Council for a number of years.

Although Arnold was appointed last week to fill the vacancy that occurred from Chuck Nuckolls' resignation, Arnold served previously on the council for 12 years and on the Planning Commission for nine years.

Sheppard was nominated by council member Jerome Squires and won by a 3-2 vote. Sitting Mayor Brian Bassett was also nominated by Councilmember Doug Arnold but withdrew after two rounds of voting failed to produce a winner.

Sheppard lost no time, changed seats with Bassett and presented a long list of committee appointments.

Prior to the mayoral selections, the newly-elected council member Anita Wilks was sworn in by City Clerk Roben Benish. Re-elected council member Jerome Squires was sworn in to fill the vacancy left by Councilmember Michael Buck, who resigned Dec. 3. ★

City Council Honors Heroic Local Family



Santa waves from atop a fire engine during last year's Winter Wonderland Parade and Festival. Photo by Chris Pedigo

By Shaunna Boyd

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The Live Oak City Council issued a proclamation at its Dec. 4 meeting recognizing the heroic actions of a local family: Cyle Johnson, Ashely Martin and their 6-year-old daughter, Cayleigh Johnson.

Live Oak Mayor Ashley Hernandez read the proclamation, stating that Cayleigh was outside playing on Nov. 25, when she witnessed a

roll-over car crash into an irrigation canal on Larkin and Paseo roads. The vehicle landed upside down and the driver's head was submerged under the water.

Cayleigh ran inside to tell her parents, who both rushed outside to help. The driver, Live Oak resident Robbie Carpenter, was unresponsive and Cyle Johnson quickly forced the door open. A passerby offered a knife to cut the seat belt and they pulled Carpenter to safety. The family

stayed with Carpenter until emergency services arrived on scene and Carpenter was transported to medical care with minor injuries.

If not for this family, Mayor Hernandez stated, there would have been a much different outcome and the city applauded their heroic, life-saving actions.

During general Public Comment, Live Oak resident Cruz Mora introduced a public petition for safe,

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The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

One of the reasons I continue to write this column every week is to ensure that remarkable people who build and improve our community are recognized.

Here are some thoughts from the Adventist School shooting in the Pi Line today. The children at the school were all placed on a bus and driven to the Oroville Nazarene church, where parents were directed to pick up their children. Kirsten Storne-Piazza, a counselor with the Butte County Sheriff's Office, was stationed at the bus. She is trained in dealing with crisis moments and is an expert in what these repeated events do to the men and women who respond first and the long-term impacts. Her family is immersed in law enforcement. So when you go to praise the heroic efforts of those who risk their lives and mental well-being protecting your rights, life, and property, just know that she is there doing her work in the months and years after the heroic acts of selfless bravery are no longer on the front page of the paper. She is there when the emotional, spiritual, and psychological bill comes due. We often associate heroes with people who act bravely in a moment of great difficulty. Kirsten is a long-term hero.

Highway Patrolman Paul Vue was the first peace officer to respond to the 911 calls from the school. He arrived within 2 minutes of the first 911 call. When the State Highway Patrol Commissioner Sean Duryee described what happened at a media briefing, he said that Officer Vue followed his training and ran toward the

shooter, secured the children from further threat, and then started administering first aid to the two little boys who had been shot. If he had taken longer to get there, more children would have been shot. If he had moved slower in providing first aid, the more seriously wounded boy would have bled to death. He deserves a medal of some sort. If he had failed in doing his duty, lives would have been lost. This is a real contrast to the school shooting in Texas in which the law enforcement people "staged" outside the school. Vue ran in, and two Butte County Sheriff Deputies were about 5 minutes behind him; they ran, then Highway Patrol Commander Marc Stokes arrived, and he ran in. Those four scouted out additional criminals and got the kids to the gym. It is a miracle that the first four responders were that fast. It is what they do.

Dr. Justin Tolman, President of the Gridley area of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, went to the Seventh Adventist Church services on Saturday to show his people's solidarity with their people. He brought Jeanette Papa Storey, an LDS woman who is a school counselor in Oroville, and they sat behind Pastor Steve Brownell. The children from the Adventist School were doing their Christmas program. As they sang Christmas songs, prayed for their two classmates in the hospital, and hung decorations on the Church Christmas Tree, I counted them. I don't know why I counted them, but I did. My mind kept going back to meeting Officer Vue and shaking his hand the day after the incident when he showed up to work again. I kept thinking of him as the children sang. I wished he was sitting there with the parents and the church family, watching the young people he served so well.

People choose what they want to do in life. And yes,

being involved in public safety and emergency response is a burden. Still, the rewards, especially seeing parents reunited with their children, are the type of tender mercy that makes wearing the badge worth the cost. Jeanette Papa Storey said the place where the kids unloaded from the bus and ran into the arms of their family members is sacred ground. I agree.

Highway Patrol Lieutenant Marc Stokes mentioned above, who lives in Gridley at the old Dalton Family farmstead, will be promoted to Captain and be made Commander of the Chico Highway Patrol Office on January 1st. Congratulations.

On to basketball. The Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament (GIBT) is the longest-running tournament in California. From its inception in 1953 to 1977, the GIBT stood as a popular alternative to the High School Tournament of Champions (TOC). Both events were held after the regular basketball season. The GIBT's popularity and competitiveness reached a point where two teams that had earned the privilege of participating in the TOC chose to play in the GIBT instead. This decision prompted the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) officials to decide to have only one post-season tournament to determine the ultimate champion. This change took effect in 1978, marking the only year the GIBT was not held. Gridley High School revived the event in the fall of 1979 as a pre-season tournament. Since then, it has consistently been regarded as one of California's most prestigious varsity basketball tournaments. The GIBT this year is December 12, 13, and 14 at the Farmer's Hall.

Josh F.W. Cook is an educator, administrator, and father to five significantly above-average children. ★

City of Marysville Announces Demolition of the Hotel Marysville



Nearly 6 months after fire destroyed the Hotel Marysville, demolition of its ruins began Wednesday, Dec. 11. Photo courtesy of the City of Marysville

City of Marysville News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The City of Marysville announces the commencement of heavy demolition work on the Hotel Marysville starting Wednesday, Dec. 11.

This comes after the historic hotel was severely damaged by a fire on June 15, rendering the building unstable and unsafe. The city expects the demolition to be completed by mid-to-late January 2025, marking a crucial step toward restoring the area and mitigating the ongoing negative impact on local businesses, transportation, and commuters.

The fire caused extensive structural damage to the hotel, leading to its eventual condemnation due to safety concerns. The building's instability has not only posed a danger to public safety but has also disrupted the local economy. The presence of the damaged hotel has impacted nearby businesses, and the closure of adjacent sections of Highway 70 has caused significant delays for commuters and affected regional transportation.

"The damage caused by the fire and the ongoing instability of the building has had a significant effect on our

community," said Marysville City Manager, Jim Schaad. "Demolishing the Hotel Marysville is a necessary step to restore local traffic flow, revitalize the area, and ensure that businesses and residents can thrive. We are committed to minimizing disruption during the demolition process and are working closely with Caltrans to reopen Highway 70 as quickly as possible."

The City will be coordinating with Caltrans to expedite the reopening of Highway 70 shortly after the demolition is complete, allowing for improved traffic conditions and access to the region. "We understand the frustrations of commuters and local businesses, and we are doing everything we can to ensure that the demolition process is swift and efficient," said Vincenzo Corazza, City Public Works director. "We will continue to work closely with all agencies to minimize the impact and keep the community informed."

For updates on the demolition and the reopening of Highway 70, visit the City of Marysville's official website at marysville.ca.us or follow the city's social media channels. ★



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Up in Smoke

Chico's Bidwell Mansion Destroyed



This picture shows the size of the fire that was reported about 3 a.m. Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Chico Fire Department

By **Connie Voss**

CHICO, CA (MPG) - The well-known Chico landmark, Bidwell Mansion, was destroyed in an early morning fire on Wednesday.

Firefighters were called to the scene about 3 a.m. Wednesday. Flames were reported as an illegal warming fire that quickly consumed the historic building.

A search is being conducted for the person seen fleeing the state historic park at about the time the fire was reported, according to Chico Fire Department.

The home has been under extensive renovation with scaffolding surrounding the exterior. Work included a new roof, siding repair and restoring woodwork. Completion was scheduled for next year.

Many historical items were in the home. However, it was unclear at press time how many items were lost.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Chico Fire Department officials ask anyone with information regarding the fire or the person seen at the location to call them at 530-897-3400.

Constructed from 1864 to 1868, Bidwell Mansion was a local icon for 150 years. California pioneer and Brigadier General John Bidwell commissioned the home. Bidwell later brought his bride, Annie, to the spacious abode, with 26 rooms covering 12,000 square feet. The three-story mansion was designed by architect Henry W. Cleaveland from San Francisco. Cost for the building was between \$56,000 and \$60,000,

which was a grand sum for that era.

Bidwell founded the town of Chico and is responsible for many of the beautiful trees planted there. He donated the land for Chico State University and Bidwell Park. ★



Firefighters attempt to douse the flames. Photo courtesy of Chico Fire Department



The original Bidwell Mansion was completed in 1868. Photo courtesy of California State Parks, 2024



Here are Annie and John Bidwell in a very early photograph taken at their home. Courtesy photo

Chico Mayor Comments on Bidwell Mansion Fire

Office of Mayor Kasey Reynolds News Release

CHICO, CA (MPG) - City of Chico Mayor Kasey Reynolds made comments regarding the tragic Dec. 10 Bidwell Mansion fire.

"Last night's fire at the Bidwell Mansion is a devastating loss for Chico. Our firefighters, whether on duty or off, gave their all in the face of this fire," Reynolds said.

"Chico Fire Department coordinated

with Chico Police Department, Cal Fire, CSUC PD, State Parks, Butte EMS, Chico Public Works, PGE, and Cal Water on the response to the incident. California State Parks has primary jurisdiction for the incident, and we are coordinating efforts with them. The City of Chico Fire Marshall is working directly with State Parks and state investigators to determine the cause of the fire. As we recover from the loss of our iconic Bidwell Mansion, we'll continue to rely on the strength of our community to move forward." ★

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www.gridleyinvitationalbasketballtournament.com



Gallagher Re-Elected Assembly Republican Leader

Welcomes New Members and Announces Leadership Team



Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District

Assembly Republicans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Assembly Republican Caucus has unanimously re-elected

Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) as its Leader for the upcoming legislative session.

Gallagher, who has led the caucus since 2022, expressed gratitude for the continued trust of his colleagues and optimism for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

"I am honored by the opportunity to continue leading the Assembly Republicans as we fight to bring down costs, restore public safety and put California back on a sustainable fiscal path," said Gallagher. "Last session, we won big victories on retail theft, fentanyl and human trafficking. This year Republicans are ready to hit the ground running to keep up that momentum and fight for a better California."

Gallagher also welcomed six newly elected members, whose victories underscore a renewed commitment to addressing the pressing issues facing California families. These new lawmakers include two Republican pickups of previously Democrat-held seats.

Newly elected leaders are Heather Hadwick (Alturas) - District 1; David Tangipa (Clovis) - District 8; Alexandra Macedo (Tulare) - District 33; Jeff Gonzalez (Indio) - District 36; Leticia Castillo (Corona) - District 58; and Carl DeMaio (San Diego) - District 75.

"These new Assemblymembers bring fresh perspectives, strong voices, and deep dedication to improving life for their

communities," Gallagher added. "From our veteran Members to our newly elected colleagues, Assembly Republicans have a strong team of fighters ready to take on the challenges facing our state."

Finally, Gallagher announced Assembly Republicans' leadership team for the upcoming year, which is comprised of: Floor Leader: Heath Flora (Lodi); Caucus Chair: Tom Lackey (Palmdale); Deputy Floor Leader: Kate Sanchez (Rancho Santa Margarita); Deputy Leader (Fiscal): Diane Dixon (Newport Beach); Deputy Leader (Policy): Joe Patterson (Rocklin); Deputy Leader (Operations): Juan Alanis (Modesto); Deputy

Leader (External Relations): Laurie Davies (Laguna Niguel); Chief Whip: Tri Ta (Westminster); Deputy Whip: Alexandra Macedo (Tulare); and Deputy Whip: Heather Hadwick (Alturas).

"We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and skilled leadership team guiding our caucus," said Gallagher. "Together, we will stand strong for hardworking Californians and against policies that make life unaffordable in our state."

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. ★

City Council Honors Heroic Local Family

Continued from page 1
clean, and affordable water free from PFAS (also known as forever chemicals), which were recently found at low levels in some wells within the city.

"People are concerned," said Mora. "PFAS should not be in our water, bottom line. And the residents are demanding more."

Mora said the Live Oak ratepayers call on the City Council to take action, including the shutdown of all affected wells and the introduction of safe alternative water sources. Mora asked for an investigation into why PFAS are present in the wells and to determine the extent of contamination in all wells and groundwater sources. He asked City Council to identify steps for both short- and long-term mitigation, such

as continuous testing and monitoring, the construction of a drinking water filtration plant and the introduction of additional wells so backups are available when needed.

Mora directed residents to visit Change.org/noPFASinLiveOak to view and sign the petition.

City Council then considered the end-of-year holiday work schedule, with a proposed City Hall closure from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1. Interim City Manager Rick Crabtree said employees appreciate the ability to take time off between Christmas and New Years, using a combination of accrued personal time and already-scheduled city holidays, "so there is no net increase in compensation expense to the city or benefit to

the employee."

Crabtree recommended continuing the tradition and closing City Hall during that time.

Councilmember Bob Woten supported continuing the tradition "for the benefit of our employees" to show appreciation for their hard work.

Councilmember Jeramy Chapdelaine said, "In a relatively slow time, I think the benefit to the employees' families is well worth it."

Vice-Mayor Nancy Santana said she supported the idea but asked whether residents would still be able to contact the city in case of emergencies, such as flooded roads, downed trees and power lines.

Crabtree said there is an emergency number and essential

public works employees will be on call to respond.

During City Manager items, Crabtree said the County Clerk has completed the canvass of the ballots from the recent election, so the elected councilmembers can be sworn in at the next meeting.

During final City Council comments, Councilmember Chapdelaine said he reached out to the Sacramento State Office of Water Programs, which helps facilitate the state water board's PFAS program. He inquired about potential grant funding to help cover mitigation costs, but because it is a new program, there is not much funding available. Live Oak is currently at a notification level rather than an action level, so available funding

would prioritize jurisdictions with actionable levels of PFAS in the drinking water supply.

Councilmember Woten said it's important to educate the public about the PFAS issue and not cause panic since it is not an actionable level.

Vice-Mayor Santana said the city needs to take PFAS seriously, and when the new test results come in, that data should be posted to the city's website.

Santana also asked that City Council consider implementing a School Resource Officer (SRO) program, after a recent school shooting at the Feather River Adventist School in Oroville.

The next Live Oak City Council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at City Hall, 9955 Live Oaks Blvd. ★

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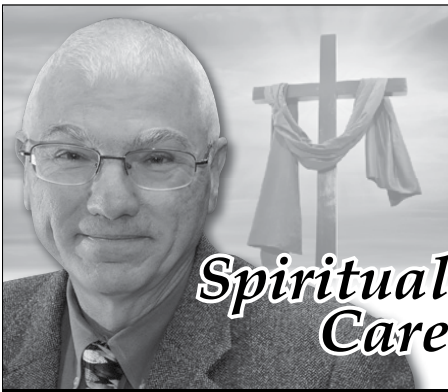
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Chaplain's Wife Misinterprets Dying Breath



BY NORRIS BURKES

This week, I'm very happy to announce the 65th birthday of my good friend Dale Swan. Yes, he's still alive, despite the wishes of his wife Jill.

No, wait. That sounds bad. Jill and Dale are a very fit and happy couple, so allow me to start this story again.

Dale Swan, a Sutter Hospice chaplain in Roseville, has always been clear with his wife, Jill, about how he wants to die.

"If I get sick and can't feed myself or make my own decisions, please don't let them put in a breathing or feeding tube. Let me go peacefully."

Jill, 62, is a CPA who is used to calculating the options, responded in the way many families do: "But I don't want you to starve to death."

Dale reassured his wife of 40 years that his hospice colleagues would be there for her and wouldn't let him suffer.

Dale is an avid cyclist who showed no signs of impending problems until one summer evening in 2018. He was watching TV from his recliner, eating a veggie burger and sipping a beer, when he was hit with troubling stomach pains.

He took some antacid and told his wife he was going to lie down. When Jill checked on him an hour later, she found his pain intensifying. She suggested a doctor, but Dale declined, instead making a restroom visit that brought only mild improvement.

An hour later, Jill heard Dale moaning with extreme pain. She insisted on taking him to the ER, but Dale countered by asking her to call 911. When paramedics arrived, they began assessing pain even as they were speculating it was a heart attack.

Within a few minutes, EMTs placed him on a gurney and loaded him in their ambulance. Beside him, they hung an IV

drip of Fentanyl, a strong opiate for pain control.

Once inside the ER, the doctor ordered blood tests, a CT scan and a sonogram. Dale was suffering from pancreatitis, but staff could find no cause. They ruled out stomach blockage, gallbladder problems and even alcohol abuse.

Dale's pain level was rising to alarming levels, with no apparent diagnosis. Nurses admitted Dale to a room, ordered that he have no food for four days, and administered Dilaudid.

However, once inside the room, the pain medication slowed his respiration to six breaths per minute. Dale was rapidly losing consciousness.

Hospital staff grew concerned they'd overdosed him and instructed Jill to keep her husband awake or they'd have to give him Narcan, a drug that reverses opioid effects. "If that doesn't work," they grimly warned, "we'll have to insert a breathing tube down his throat."

Jill remembered Dale's instructions and shocked the staff by saying, "Oh no, he doesn't want that! He's always said to let him die peacefully."

Jill felt prepared. She and Dale had discussed many of the crucial questions involving the end of life and placed those answers into an advance directive, (often called a Living Will). The Advance Healthcare Directive is a document that we should all have.

The directive instructs doctors what we want done if we become incapacitated. Without the directive, doctors are obligated to do everything possible to save our life — even if "everything" means a painful delay of our inevitable death.

Fortunately, the medical staff knew this wasn't a moment to give up on a healthy and strong patient.

They helped Jill understand that Dale's document didn't apply to situations where a full recovery could be logically anticipated.

While Dale has fully recovered and returned to work, the happy couple is taking no more chances. Dale's given Jill more detailed instructions. And Jill, ever the logical number cruncher, has reviewed their life insurance policies — just in case.

More information on state-specific advance directives is available at www.caringinfo.org. ★

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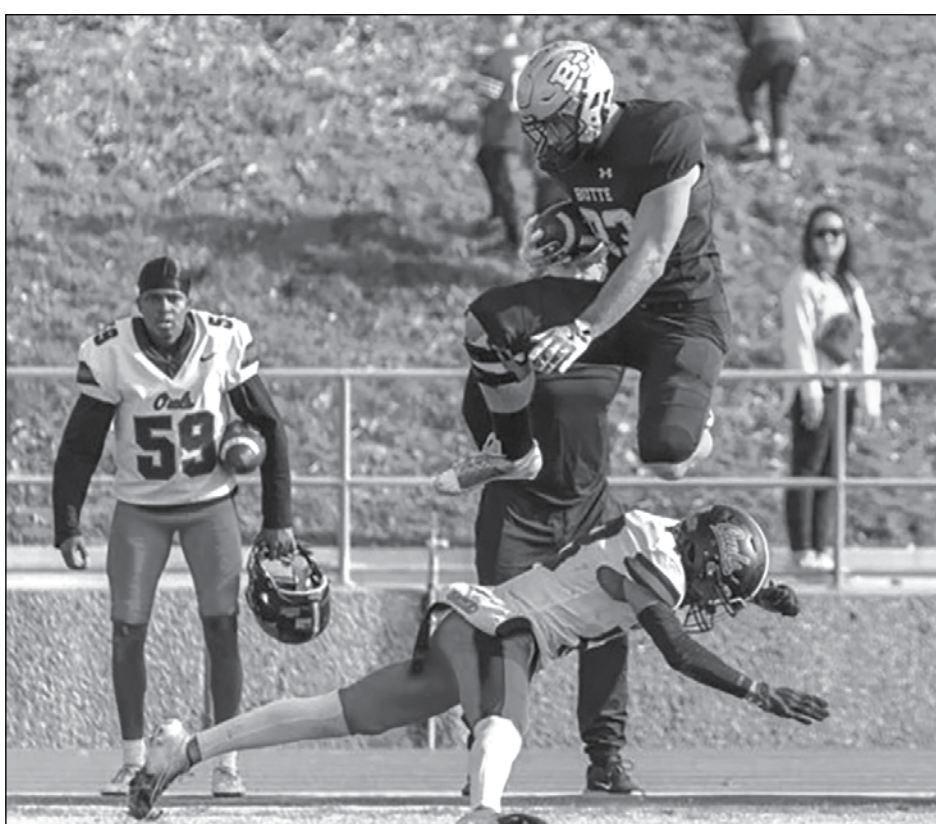
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Butte College Football Wins Bowl Game

Roadrunners Fall Short in Championship



Butte College freshman tight end Elias Counihan leaps over a Foothill College defender during the 2024 California Community College Gridiron Classic Bowl. Photo by Butte College Athletics

Butte College News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 7, the California Community College Gridiron Classic Bowl was played in Oroville at the John B. Cowan Stadium. In a thrilling matchup between the Foothill College Owls and the Butte College Roadrunners, Butte emerged victorious with a final score of 33-27.

Butte started off strong with Lane Garner kicking a 26-yard field goal in the first quarter, followed by a 42-yard touchdown pass from Roadrunner quarterback Marcus Beamon to Elias Counihan in the second quarter. Foothill responded with a 3-yard touchdown run by Jordan Fuentes, but Butte extended their lead with a 56-yard touchdown pass from Beamon to Brandon Smith, making the score 16-7 at halftime.

The third quarter saw Foothill's Epoki Fakaosi return an interception for a 61-yard touchdown, closing the gap. But

the Roadrunners maintained their lead with a 36-yard field goal by Garner. In the fourth quarter, Butte's Niall Raby scored a 13-yard touchdown run, followed by a 4-yard touchdown run by Beamon. Foothill fought back with a 16-yard touchdown pass from Jayden Macedo to Blake Chase, but Butte secured the win with Beamon's touchdown run and held off Foothill's late rally.

Overall, Butte had a strong offensive performance with Beamon leading the way with 240 passing yards and two touchdown passes. Foothill put up a good fight, but Butte's defense proved to be too much to overcome.

With this victory, Butte improved their record to 10-1, while Foothill fell to 7-4.

Game awards went to: Epoki Fakaosi, Foothill College (Defensive Most Valuable Player), Marcus Beamon, Butte College (Offensive Most Valuable Player) and Player of the Game: Zach Valcarcel, Butte College. ★



Butte College's goalkeeper Manuel Diaz makes a save against the Cuyamaca College Coyotes in the 3C2A Men's Soccer Championship on Sunday, Dec. 8 at American River College in Sacramento. Photo by Butte College Athletics

Butte College News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Butte College Roadrunners took on the Cuyamaca College Coyotes in the 3C2A Men's Soccer Championship on Sunday, Dec. 8 at American River College in Sacramento. The Coyotes ultimately prevailed over the Roadrunners with a final score of 2-0.

The Roadrunners versus the Coyotes may seem like a common Saturday morning cartoon show brought to you by the sponsor ACME, but in this case the Roadrunners were making their first ever Men's Soccer Final's appearance and Cuyamaca was looking for their first championship. Butte came into the game as the 3C2A leader in goals and was hoping to score multiple goals in the championship game. Cuyamaca was on a 14-game win streak but needed two overtime periods to defeat Cañada 2-1, where they fell

behind in the second minute of the game, to advance to the championship game. Butte on the other hand needed a last-minute mistake by Long Beach which they capitalized on to get their only goal, which allowed the Roadrunners to defeat the Vikings and move on to Championship Sunday.

Butte College was unfortunately unable to finish off their season with a win in the 3C2A championship game after the program's most successful year in its short history. In the championship game on Dec. 8, Roadrunners fell behind early to the Coyotes and was forced to change their style of play into a more aggressive style of play. The Coyotes scored their second goal in the 59th minute which sealed the victory for the Coyotes. This was Butte's first trip to the 3C2A Finals but hopefully it will not be their last trip. More information to come on where the Roadrunner's sophomores will play next year. ★

Pioneer League Champion High Wheelers Have a New Home



High Wheelers celebrate their Pioneer Baseball League Championship in September 2024. Photo courtesy of High Wheelers

High Wheelers News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Marysville City Council has approved a new lease agreement to bring the reigning Pioneer Baseball League Champion High Wheelers to historic Bryant Field. This decision comes on the heels of a successful inaugural season, where the High Wheelers won the championship in the Pioneer League while playing at Dobbins Field on the UC Davis campus. Despite on-field dominance, the team struggled to establish a sustainable presence in Davis due to several logistical challenges.

The High Wheelers are the latest addition to the Pioneer Baseball League (PBL), a Major League Baseball (MLB) partner league established in 1939, and the second team in the league's west coast expansion, following the Oakland Ballers. The league has a strong history of player development, sending multiple players to the MLB teams each season. As a part of the team's relocation the High Wheelers will be renamed the Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers. In an effort to honor the Davis fans, team founders and staff will be hosting an open forum to speak directly with people who have questions about the move.

The Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers aim to become the premium destination for family entertainment in the Yuba-Sutter region by setting a new standard for investment in player development, community engagement, and fan experience, surpassing anything previously seen from teams in the area. The High Wheelers were founded by the same ownership group that created the

Oakland Ballers, a baseball team that made national headlines by bringing a new brand of fan-centered, community-driven baseball to a fanbase that was heartbroken with the departure of the A's from Oakland.

"In Oakland, we developed a successful model of radical community participation. We are confident we can continue this in Marysville, while also staying nimble enough to consistently improve the player and fan experience. We can't wait to see how our new Yuba-Sutter fans truly make the team their own," said Bryan Carmel, co-founder of the Oakland Ballers & the Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers.

Marysville, located two hours north-east of the Bay Area, is a deeply historic baseball community and offers an opportunity to re-integrate baseball into the economic and cultural fabric of the Yuba-Sutter region. The team will be playing at Bryant Field, a historic stadium built from New Deal investments. Baseball has a rich history in the community, having hosted legends such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Jackie Robinson.

About the High Wheelers

The High Wheelers joined the Pioneer League, which was founded in 1939, as its second ever West Coast franchise. The High Wheelers are committed to providing a fun, innovative and community focused baseball experience that puts families first, while providing a new model for sports franchises. The PBL, founded in 1939, features teams based in Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and California. As an independent MLB Partner League, the PBL comprises 12 teams playing a 96-game season from May to mid-September. ★

Butte College SBDC In-Person Business Trainings

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

Introduction to Digital/Online Marketing (Colusa)

This workshop will focus on discussing introductory methods of digital and online marketing. You will learn the basics about Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Search Engine Marketing (SEM), Social Media Marketing (SMM), as well as mobile, affiliate, and online Ad marketing. You will be provided real-world examples of which type of marketing best fit your marketing goals, as well as ideas for your future marketing needs. This training is perfect for individuals who are either first getting started in digital/online marketing, or those who would like a little more information on how to develop their current digital/online marketing.

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 | **Time:** 9:00am - 11:00am

Cost: Free | **Location:** Colusa City Hall, 425 Webster St, Colusa

How to Use Facebook & Instagram Ads to Grow Your Business (Red Bluff)

In this 2-hour presentation, we will dig into what makes advertising profitable OR a money pit and how to best avoid the pitfalls that many businesses make. Training will include:

- The Do's and Don'ts about your Pricing Model, and how to use it for effective Ads
- The ONE THING that does not show up on Facebook or Instagram but is the secret to Profitable Ads
- The FOUR numbers you must track to make or break your profitability when advertising on Facebook and Instagram
- How to KNOW exactly how much money you are making from your Ads and avoid the guessing game.
- Understanding profit strategies for brick and mortar and service businesses
- Learning the types of business that SHOULD NOT be advertising online
- Sharing information on Ads and online copy that are leads and sales generators
- How to identify the correct target market for your Ads
- A step-by-step planner for orderly planning to ensure your online campaign has the biggest chance for success

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 | **Time:** 9:00am - 11:00am

Cost: Free | **Location:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2810 Main St., Red Bluff

Delivering Outstanding Customer Service in a Retail Business (Red Bluff)

Excellent customer service is critical for increasing sales and profit, employee and customer retention, and sustaining any type of business success. Understanding the nuances of customer service that result in outstanding customer experience is a strategy for success in any business. You will learn the tools to a properly trained team and or staff, improve your customer's experience, and create a more pleasant environment for everyone. Training topics include: Advantages of outstanding customer service (i.e., increase sales, customer retention, theft reduction, client expectations); How to create outstanding customer service (i.e., phone, in-person, virtually); Understanding your customers' wants and expectations; How Outstanding Customer Service leads to improved business bottom line, and Examples of Modeling Practices & Behaviors (i.e., scripts, observation, feedback, reward), and more.

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 | **Time:** 9:00am - 11:00am

Cost: Free | **Location:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2810 Main St., Red Bluff

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. (530) 895-9017





MoneyManagementRadio.com
 (((BECAUSE MONEY MATTERS!)))
 Marc Cuniberti hosts "Money Matters" on KVMR 89.5 FM Thursdays at Noon.
 Visit his website at www.moneymanagementradio.com

Those Annual Christmas Sales

With Thanksgiving now in the rear view mirror, the Christmas season is upon us and that means nationwide sales reports on everything from baby toys to gifts for grandpa and all things in between will be hitting the news wires in about 6 weeks.

That said, obviously one of the first things on the minds of many is how are they going to afford presents and how much are they going to cost.

We will find out how we did when the annual holiday sales figures hits the news wires and no doubt they will be up as they almost always are.

The reason every year we see increased spending by consumers on gifts are the sales figures are based on the total amount of money spent. Sounds reasonable but since everything costs more every year, of course holiday sales are more than the year before. It would make more sense and reflect how things really are if they reported actual number of units sold instead.

If they did that, it's my guess we would see the total number of gifts probably drop every year. Real wages (what one can buy with the money they earn) have remained stagnant for decades, probably since around the 1970's.

In my opinion, the reason the reporting agencies don't count number of units sold is that no matter who is in the White House, they want a positive spin on the health of the consumer for obvious reasons. It's the reason we see very few true reporting figures on a variety of economic environments such as inflation, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consumer sentiment and unemployment to name but a few.

I have penned a few articles on the massaging of numbers by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the folks that do the economic reporting we see coming out of Washington so I won't hash them over here. But trust me, it's like a shell game how they hide stuff.

These happy-go-lucky stats are also the reason many a reader try and cross swords with me about my articles saying they know this and that about the economy and that I am as wet on my economic accuracies as contestants in a wet T shirt contest. They believe the fairy tales they read from the BLS.

But I think astute and truly observational readers see the spin that inflation is receding and the consumer is a vibrant soul and just shake their heads in wonder and try and figure out how all that feel good news isn't making it down to his neighborhood.

And so it goes with government statistics and we will undoubtedly see more "vibrant consumer" headlines come the conclusion of the holiday season once again while in reality everyone is buying a smaller tree because they cost so much and smaller trees need fewer presents under them to look just as festive as last year.

With inflation taking the price of just about everything up in leaps and bounds despite what Washington says along with the BLS statistic-quoting letter writers to my Money Matters inbox, very few if any of my acquaintances tell me their planning on dropping more money on gifts this year than last.

How about in your circles?
 In conclusion, finding some good in everything, there will be a lesson in all of this, with smaller trees casting less shade on fewer gifts, we will look for the gift of family and friends instead and realize that is what really is important, and not all that over-packaged plastic crap that we could really do without anyway.

Then when we read how once again how wonderful holiday sales were and how resilient we all are in our spending, we'll just manage a smile knowing we really got what we wanted. A little less of that plastic crap and a bunch more of the touchy-feely family stuff.

And that is truly the greatest gift.
"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 ★

Grand Theft Auto Crime Spree Defendant and Child Molester Sentenced

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - An Oroville man who had previously admitted charges of negligent discharge of a firearm, multiple vehicle thefts, robberies and assaults with a firearm last spring was in court Dec. 4 to be sentenced on those charges plus a child molestation charge for a total of 27 years in state prison.

William Phillip Kevil, 19, of Oroville, originally was facing 15 years in prison on 13 counts involved in his "Grand Theft Auto" crime spree in December 2023.

After entering a no-contest plea to those original 13 counts, it was discovered Kevil had repeated video contact with a 13-year-old girl while he was housed in the Butte County Jail.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the Butte County Jail has a tablet communication system for inmates to use for video visits with family and friends in addition to telephone calls and in-person visits.




During one of the video calls on his tablet, Kevil requested and caused the minor to touch herself sexually while he viewed her. Kevil entered a plea to a single count of lewd act on a child and admitted the prior "strike" convictions he had accumulated in the "Grand Theft Auto" case, greatly increasing his overall prison sentence.

Ramsey said Kevil knew the minor before his incarceration and contacted the minor multiple times while in jail. Kevil had the girl set up a fake visitor

profile to be able to use the video portion of the tablet. Sheriff's investigators were able to pinpoint the dates and times of the video by connecting Kevil's account usage and video chats with the girl. Once discovered, Kevil's tablet privilege was revoked.

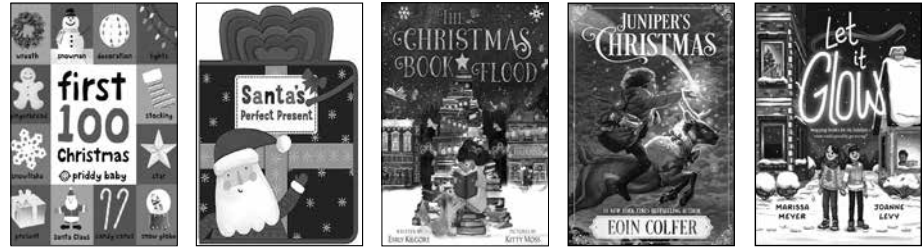
Restitution was also ordered for more than \$55,000 for the five victims of his Grand Theft Auto spree. Additionally, the judge granted a 10-year protective order, precluding any contact between the minor girl and Kevil. ★



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

Holiday Gift Guide from Macmillan Publishing

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with an exciting new array of Children's books. This year, our favorite publishers have curated their top picks for the holiday season, promising delightful discoveries for you and your little ones. So, if you are looking for the perfect gift or one that will bring holiday cheer or hours of entertainment, remember that the joy of discovering a new book is timeless.



First 100 Christmas-Priddy Books

Priddy book returns with a collection of brightly colored photographs and essential words of the holidays. This go-to guide, a sturdy board book, will be a favorite teaching tool for any baby or toddler on your list, helping them learn about Christmas in a fun and interactive way.

Santa's Perfect Present Priddy Books

It's time to pick a present for Santa, but what is the best gift? This sturdy felt board book is a fun story about giving and receiving.

Squeaky Santa and His Festive Friends Priddy Books

Press Santa's soft, fluffy bear and hear it squeak. When he isn't getting ready for Christmas Day, Santa is with all his friends.

Toddlers will delight in this squeaky board book highlighting Santa and his friends.

Night Night Santa Priddy Books

It's time to settle down and go to sleep with this

Christmas nighttime adventure. While little ones might be excited about Santa's visit, this board book is the perfect bedtime read.

Follow Santa on his Christmas Eve journey with this sturdy board book, and then it's time to say good-night and turn out the lights and see this book's glow-in-the-dark adventure.

The Christmas Book Flood by Emily Kilgore and Kitty Moss

Celebrate the beautiful Icelandic tradition of the Christmas Book Flood, where on Christmas Eve, everyone shares the gift of magical stories and books and spends the night curled up reading—together.

Follow this stunning illustrated display and beautiful story that captures the beauty of reading and books in a country nestled under the northern lights.

5 More Sleeps 'Til Christmas

by Jimmy Fallon, illustrated by Rich Deas

Jimmy Fallon captures the sheer excitement of the last

few sleeps until Christmas in this humorous and adorable story. Adorable and captivating illustrations make this story leap off the pages as it takes readers into the magic of each day. This is a must-have book for readers of all ages.

Juniper's Christmas by Eoin Colfer

Follow the magical adventure of Juniper Lane when she is accidentally thrown into the magic of the North Pole when she decides to help a mysterious man in the park. It is a magical tale perfect for the middle-grade reader.

Let It Glow by Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy

Parent Trap meets the Holidays in this adorable story of two adopted girls whose chance meeting opens a door of discovery and holiday traditions. When Aviva and Holly meet at the holiday pageant tryouts, it is like looking in the mirror. But the magic only continues when the girls decide to switch homes to see how each other celebrates the holidays. ★

California Officials Plan for a Dry 2025 With Grim Water Supply Guesswork



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Each December, there's a new version of an old guessing game about how much water will be provided to agricultural and municipal users in the year ahead.

Federal and state water agencies post initial, and usually very low, estimates based on the current condition of reservoirs, soil conditions that affect runoff, and assumptions of the winter and spring.

Over the next few months, the estimates are upgraded as firmer precipitation data accumulates, often — but not always — increasing.

For 2022, as drought gripped California, the state Department of Water Resources initially projected zero water deliveries, later raised them to 15% of the contracted supplies, but finally delivered just 5%.

One year later, however, the department initially promised 5%, but after a very wet winter finally delivered 100%. This year began with a 10% estimate of state water supply and ended up with 40%.

The huge swings in initial allocations and final deliveries are an obvious headache for the 29 local and regional water

purveyors supplied by the state water system, serving some 29 million people. Do the public water agencies impose strict conservation on their customers in years with low initial projections, try to obtain supplemental supplies, take a chance that eventual deliveries will be higher, or all of the above?

The annual game resumed this week, when the Department of Water Resources announced an initial 2025 estimate of just 5%.

"Based on long-range forecasts and the possibility of a La Niña year, the State Water Project is planning for a dry 2025 punctuated by extreme storms like we've seen in late November," department director Karla Nemeth said in a statement. "We need to prepare for any scenario, and this early in the season we need to take a conservative approach to managing our water supply. Our wettest months of the season are still to come."

"What we do know is that we started the water year following record heat this summer and in early October that parched the landscape. We must account for dry soils in our State Water Project allocation planning and our runoff forecasts for the spring."

That's a fairly grim scenario that may already be outdated because it was made without counting the heavy rains and snows that hit the state in late November.

"These storms will be taken into account along with other variables for future allocation updates. Prior to these storms, the

start of the water year had been dry and warm," the department said. It's also noteworthy that after the spate of storms, California's weather has returned to dry and warm.

Another factor in the guessing game is the status of reservoirs, not only the state's Lake Oroville, but the multiple storage projects managed by the federal government, such as Lake Shasta, and those owned by cities and irrigation districts.

At the moment, the state's reservoirs are generally above 100% of historic averages after a couple of relatively wet winters, which indicate that ultimate water deliveries will be higher than the low initial estimates, although how much higher is uncertain. Shasta is at 113% and Oroville at 109%.

The annual guessing game would be more accurate if the state had done what it should have done decades ago — developed more storage capacity, either in reservoirs or aquifers, that could be filled in wet years and cushion the impact of drought.

A couple of storage projects are underway, Sites Reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley and an enlargement of the San Luis Reservoir in the Pacheco Pass west of Merced.

Much more is needed as climate change affects the precipitation cycle.

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. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



Manzanita Elementary Announces Students of the Month



GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Congratulations to the following students on being chosen as Manzanita Elementary School's Students of the Month for the month of November. They have been recognized by their teachers and principal as students who demonstrate Self-Advocacy, do their best and are great role models for our school. ★



In the front row from the left are Naryah Warfield, Alannah Inguanzo, Abby Baxter, Connor Tillotson, Aiden Zavala, Emmett Thompson, Lila Heusser and Kelsie Johnson.
In the back row from left are Laura Terry, Rio Espino, Tayba Khan, Ethan Thompson, Cash Hudson and Mr. Lodigiani (Principal).
Not pictured are Logan Montero, Emma Howell and Harlynn Hockersmith. Photo courtesy of Manzanita Elementary School Secretary Shelly Cahoon

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Gridley, CA 95948

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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 Gliko-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. 2024-0000856

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2024-0000868

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sepulveda Transports, 1720 Manzanita Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
 David W Sepulveda, 1720 Manzanita Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
 Date filed in Butte County: October 28, 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
 SEPULVEDA 12-20-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2024-0000880

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gentle Journey Nutrition, 961 Humboldt Avenue, Chico, CA 95928
 Johnston Kennedy, 961 Humboldt Avenue, Chico, CA 95928
 Date filed in Butte County: November 4, 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: December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
 GENTLE 12-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2024-0000931

The following person(s) are doing business as: Open Eye Books Publishing, 3541 Cisco Way, Chico, Ca 95973
 Carolyn S Ferris, 3541 Cisco Way, Chico, Ca 95973
 Date filed in Butte County: November 26, 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: December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
 OPEN 12-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2024-0000945

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lineage Construction, 5336 Becky Lane, Oroville, CA 95966
 David A Rindlisbacher, 5336 Becky Lane, Oroville, CA 95966
 Date filed in Butte County: December 4, 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: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025
 LINEAGE 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2024-0000937

The following person(s) are doing business as: JS Landscaping, 1102 Locust Street, Gridley, CA 95948
 Joseph Woods II, 1102 Locust Street, Gridley, CA 95948
 Date filed in Butte County: December 2, 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: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025
 JS 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME - STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

FILE NO. 2024-0000861

The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Shell Energy Solutions, 21 Waterway Avenue, Suite 450, The Woodlands, TX 77380
 MP2 Energy NE LLC, 909 Fannin Street, Suite 3500, Houston, TX 77010
 The Registrant began transacting business on: N/A. Business

conducted by: A Limited Liability Partnership.

Date Filed in Butte County: October 25, 2024.

This statement was filed in the office of Keaton Denlay, County Clerk of Butte County s/J. Ramirez, Deputy
 Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024
 SHELL 12-20-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #24CV03384

Petitioner Ethyn Alek Mana Lincoln and Evangeline Martinez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Destiny Diane Auman to Lailani Kealoha Martinez-Lincoln.

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 22, 2025, 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 December 3, 2024
 Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025
 LINCOLN 1-3-25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JOSE ABELARDO LUQUIN, JOSE A. LUQUIN, JOSE LUQUIN

CASE NO. 24PR00505

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Jose Abelardo Luquin, Jose A. Luquin, Jose Luquin.
 A Petition for Probate has been filed by Olga Luquin & Elda Luquin, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Olga Luquin & Elda Luquin be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
 A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Superior Court of California,

County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Hyatt McIntire & Associates, Amanda J Pedrett, 950 Tharp Road, Suite 701, Yuba City, CA 95993; (530) 674-9761
 Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024
 LUQUIN 12-13-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MALCOLM S. WILLIAMS, JR.

CASE NO. 24PR00503

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Malcolm S. Williams, Jr..

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Valerie A. Williams, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Valerie A. Williams be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
 A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 24, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 1. Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
 IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
 YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Michael Benton, 1 El Cerrito Drive, Chico, CA 95973; (916) 494-2899
 Publish: December 6, 13, 20, 2024
 BENTON 12-20-24

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VACANCY AND PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT

Manzanita Elementary School District

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to California Education Code Section 5092, that a vacancy has occurred on the Manzanita Elementary School District Board of Trustees due to the passing of Jacki Fields, effective November 25, 2024.

The Manzanita Elementary School District Board of Trustees intends to fill this vacancy by provisional appointment in accordance with California Education Code Section 5091.

Residents of the Manzanita Elementary School District who are at least 18 years of age, registered to vote, and otherwise eligible to hold office are encouraged to apply for consideration.

Qualified individuals who wish to be considered for appointment should submit a letter of interest to the Manzanita Elementary School District Office at 627 East Evans Reimer Road. Letters must be received no later than January 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees will review letters of interest and interview qualified candidates at 627 East Evans Reimer Road on January 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Following the interviews, the Board intends to make a provisional appointment on January 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Unless a petition calling for a special election, signed by a sufficient number of registered voters, is filed with the Butte County Superintendent of Schools at 1859 Bird Street, Oroville, CA 95965, within 30 days of the provisional appointment, the appointment will become final.

For more information, please contact the Manzanita Elementary School District Office at (530) 846-5594 or mcahoon@mesd.net

The Gridley Herald 12-13-2024

MPG

Legislation to Provide Disaster Tax Relief



Congressman Doug LaMalfa represents California's 1st Congressional District

Office of Rep. Doug LaMalfa News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - On Dec. 4, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act. This legislation included Congressman Doug LaMalfa's (R-Richvale) bill, H.R. 4970, Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Act, which will exempt wildfire relief payments from federal income taxes.

The legislation also streamlines the process for deducting losses from various natural disasters and includes provisions to exempt taxation on legal fees, emotional distress, lost wages and other expenses linked to wildfire losses.

Once this bill is signed into law, taxpayers will be able to claim refunds for any taxes paid on wildfire settlement funds since 2020 by filing an amended return or claiming the change in the next tax year.

"I'm glad that we finally got this bill passed, and I appreciate the patience of the people who have waited over two years for this passage. It's essential that we deliver the tax relief that our constituents need in the wake of disasters. This legislation ensures the IRS doesn't steal

what's left after the blood-sucking attorney's fees, so that individuals affected by disaster have every available dollar to recover and rebuild. I've had productive discussions with the White House in recent weeks and anticipate the bill will be signed into law without delay," said Congressman LaMalfa.

"Disaster settlement funds are not income, they're compensation for what wildfire survivors have lost," said Senator Padilla. "When a wildfire survivor is combing through the ashes of their former home, the last thing they should have to worry about is how they're going to pay taxes on any settlement they receive. Our bipartisan, bicameral bill will ensure the tens of thousands of Californians impacted by the Butte, North Bay, and Camp wildfires receive full and proper compensation to rebuild their lives after heartbreaking disaster."

What This Means for Wildfire Survivors

This allows amended tax returns to be filed by taxpayers who qualify for wildfire payment tax relief up to a year after enactment, rather than being limited to three years after originally filing a tax return.

It shields payment recipients from losing many of their benefits, such as Covered California premium subsidies, VA co-pay assistance, and FAFSA, because the government misinterpreted their disaster relief as an income windfall.

Estimated \$512 million in taxes returned to wildfire victims and survivors.

It applies not just to the Fire Victim Trust claimants, but any wildfire payments received in 2020 to 2025 for Federal wildfire disasters which occurred after 2014.

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. ★

District Attorney Warns Against Scammers Taking Advantage of Donations for School Shooting Victims



Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In light of the recent tragic Feather River Adventist School shooting, Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey is urging Butte County residents to be mindful of where their donations are going and to take extra precaution when offering up charitable contributions that are supposedly going to the victims and their families.

While the popular www.GoFundMe.com site has provided monetary aid to countless families across the United States for many years, not all causes posted on the platform are for benevolent reasons, nor do they always go to the intended recipients.

Donating through mobile/internet can be dangerous. You are not just risking losing the money you intend to donate, but you might be unwittingly giving fraudsters personal identifying information that could be used to access other accounts or steal your identity. Scammers are always looking for new ways to prey on the emotional vulnerability of people who want to provide monetary relief or support to victims and are looking for an easy way to do so with phony fundraisers.

Keep in mind some of these questions before donating to a GoFundMe or other "victim" site:

How is the organizer related to the victim(s)?

Has the GoFundMe/Venmo/Zelle account been fraudulently made to look like it is associated with the victim's fund?

Are there multiple accounts with the same or similar names displaying the same photographs or information?

Is the intended recipient or family in control of the funds? If not, who is and how do the funds get to the direct victim?

How will the funds be used?

Is the story being copied from another source?

Is the GoFundMe page misleading or do the facts not line up?

Make sure the chosen method of donation is a reputable source before donating. If you fall victim to a scam, banks and law enforcement may not be able to get the funds reimbursed.

If you are unsure of any of the above questions on any of the donation pages and still want to donate, the North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) has a direct fundraiser for the injured victims and their families. All funds are being donated directly to the victims and their families, and North Valley Community Foundation is not collecting any fees on the donations.

If you believe any GoFundMe page dedicated to the victims of the Feather River Adventist School shooting to be fraudulent, you can report it at <https://support.gofundme.com/hc/en-us/articles/203604694-Report-a-fundraiser>.

The link to donate to the North Valley Community Foundation can be found at <https://www.nvcf.org/funds/feather-river-adventist-school-victims-fund>.

To report a criminal act, contact local law enforcement in your jurisdiction, or the Butte County District Attorney's Office Fraud hotline at (866) DAFRAUD [1-866-323-7283] or the DA website at <https://form.jotform.com/213054252417043>. ★

Gallagher Comments on Newsom's "Jobs First" Stop in Colusa County

Assembly Republicans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 10, as Gov. Gavin Newsom visits Colusa County for his "Jobs First" tour to brag about the Sites Reservoir and Delta tunnel project (neither of which have created many jobs), Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (Yuba City) blasted the governor for failing to deliver on his promises about infrastructure and the economy.

"The only 'first' about this tour is it's the first time Newsom has cared about jobs in his six years as governor," said Gallagher. "Sites Reservoir has been in the works since the Eisenhower administration and voters approved funding for the project a decade ago - what on Earth is taking so long? Californians need more results and fewer publicity stunts from the governor." ★

Some other information to consider as Newsom brags about jobs:

California's unemployment rate is the second-highest in the nation, at 5.4%.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office recently reported "Outside of government and health care, the state has added no jobs in a year and a half."

A just-released study from the PPIC found a plurality of Californians disapprove of Newsom's handling of jobs and the economy, while 62% say it's harder to achieve the American Dream in California than anywhere else.

A report from the Hoover Institution found "California ranked 50th in job growth in 2023."

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. ★

Salvation Army to Collect Christmas Gifts for Families Affected by Local School Shooting

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Oroville Salvation Army will be collecting toys and gifts to donate to the families of those 33 students who attended the Feather River Adventist School during the recent tragic shooting.

Working in conjunction with the local Santa's Workshop Program, toys and gifts will be gathered and delivered to the

families starting the week-end of Dec. 20. Anyone wishing to drop off items can do so at the Oroville Salvation Army location, 1640 Washington Ave., Oroville.

Items will also be collected at Down Range Indoor Training Center at 13407 Garner Lane, Chico; Sweet Chico Confections at 21 W. 3rd St., Chico; Bowlero at 2397 Esplanade, Chico; and Bryan's Bricks at 932 W. 8th Ave., Unit A, Chico. The age range of the

children is between 5 and 13 years old, with a mix of boys and girls.

Please have any donations submitted to the above locations by Wednesday, Dec. 18, so there will be enough time to put together the items for all the families by the weekend of Dec. 20, so they will have them in time for Christmas.

For any questions, contact Captain Helden Ainius with the Oroville Salvation Army at (279) 782-0304. ★

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Riley Reviews

MORE HOLIDAY PROGRAMS ON TV
THE CLOSER WE GET TO CHRISTMAS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

It's not just Lifetime and the Hallmark Channel that offer holiday programming filled with Christmas movies and specials. UPTV is celebrating the "Most Uplifting Christmas Ever" with a schedule of over 500 hours of holiday cheer including 12 premiere movies.

In a press release, an UPTV executive is quoted as saying "Christmas is the time of year when families really come together. When people go out of their way to be kinder and to feel the joy that the season can bring." The holiday spirit at UPTV runs right up to Christmas Eve.

UPTV's "A Novel Christmas" finds children's book author Chloe Anderson (Brigitte Kingsley) heading to the cozy town of Noelville to spend time with her sister's family and help care for her recently widowed father.

Chloe did not expect the instant connection with the local bookstore owner and single dad, Ethan (Landy Cannon). Will the small town's charms be enough to rekindle a grieving family's Christmas spirit along with Chloe's dreams of writing her first novel, let alone a chance at love?

"North by North Pole: A Dial S Mystery" may sound like an Alfred Hitchcock title, but here Santa Claus is back to help a new couple solve a mystery and find romance. Zoey (Abby Ross) has one Christmas wish – to produce the perfect Christmas Festival for her hometown of Willow Creek.

The wish becomes more difficult when Dalton (Joey Scarpellino), the sponsor's handsome but aggravating son, becomes her partner and his modern ideas clash with Joey's more traditional vision.

However, when suspicious things start happening, Zoey and Dalton realize someone is trying to stop the festival. They must team up to save it and soon find that they have a lot more in common than they thought.

Lifetime always delivers holiday programs. In "How to Fall in Love by Christmas," Teri Hatcher's Nora, beloved writer-turned-CEO of her lifestyle brand, must secure a partnership with Take to Heart to save her company.

The only way to appease the partners is for Nora to write a column on falling in love by Christmas with the help of the charming and handsome photographer (Dan Payne) who has been assigned to the piece.

Lifetime's "The Holiday Junkie," stars Jennifer Love Hewitt (also serving as the director) as Andie, who runs a company with her mother Mimi that is a decorating and planning service for all holiday needs.

But after Mimi passes, Andie is forced to face her first Christmas without her mother and carry the torch for The

Holiday Junkie company all on her own. Despite the challenges, Andie may also find some love at Christmas along the way.

Positioned as a key element of the network's "It's a Wonderful Lifetime" holiday movie slate, "The Holiday Junkie" is a family affair with Hewitt's husband Brian Hallisay co-starring and their children also appearing in the film.

Tia Mowry stars in Lifetime's "A Very Merry Beauty Salon" as Sienna, the owner of the bustling Divine Beauty Salon preparing for Atlanta's Tinsel Ball, where she will be honored for her charitable work.

The annual event takes a glamorous turn with the arrival of Lawrence (RonReaco Lee), a charismatic CEO whose family's wine brand is now co-sponsoring the Ball.

Sparks fly between them, but Sienna's mother Georgia (Donna Biscoe) who is head of the Ball's committee, worries his involvement may ruin the event's traditions.

Romance blooms when Sienna and Lawrence are paired as dance partners, setting the stage for a steamy romance that challenges Sienna's thoughts on love and family and makes this year's Tinsel Ball the most memorable.

The Hallmark Channel reliably delivers a slate of holiday movies so extensive that hardly a dozen columns could cover them all. At Kansas City Chiefs home games singer Taylor Swift is often a presence all too often on TV broadcasts to cheer on her boyfriend Travis Kelce.

While neither one of them appears in "Holiday Touchdown: A Chiefs Love Story," Hunter King's Alana Higman is sure that her family's lifelong history Chiefs superfans makes them a frontrunner to win the team's "Fan of the Year" contest.

Derrick (Tyler Hynes), Director of Fan Engagement, is tasked with evaluating how Alana and her family stack up against the other two finalists. As Alana and Derrick spend time together, it's clear there's a spark between them.

But when Alana's grandfather's Chiefs lucky hat goes missing, Alana begins to doubt everything she believed about fate and destiny, even questioning her future with Derrick, unless a little Christmas magic can throw a Hail Mary.

Ashley Williams' Avery stars in Hallmark's "Jingle Bell Run" as an adventurous teacher whose sister secretly signs her up for The Great Holiday Dash, a Christmas-themed reality competition show where she's paired with former hockey player Wes (Andrew Walker).

Despite clashing at first, Avery and Wes' skill help them excel as they travel from city to city and compete in festive feats that have a local flavor. It's not long before a real connection between these opposites begin to blossom. ★

the question, why did it take so long for Monk to break into starting lineup.

Malik has long wanted to be a starter, and his college teammate DeAaron Fox makes it clear when asked that Malik makes the starting lineup much tougher on opposing teams.

Without question, the scoring has seen an immediate improvement, and Huerter looks more comfortable coming off the bench. Kevin is beginning to look like his old self again, and it couldn't have happened at a better time.

Strangely, Keon Ellis has suddenly found himself in coach Brown's doghouse, being summarily benched, ostensibly for a poor performance three games ago. Against the Rockets, Isaac Jones, Alex Len, Doug McDermott, and Jae McLaughlin all saw court action, but former Kings starter Keon Ellis rode the pines.

I have praised coach Brown in the past for seeing something in this former G-league player that others did not, and working with Keon over the past two years has seen incredible improvement to the point where he became a starter on the team.

Word has it that after an off night against the San Antonio Spurs in which Ellis scored eight points and grabbed just three boards, Brown was upset with his overall performance, and he sat the bench the following game in a win over the Rockets.

This is the same tactic used last season with Davion Mitchell when coach Brown suddenly benched the Kings defensive wizard for three straight games. Davion's confidence took a hit, and it showed in his eventual return to the court.

I would hate to see the same thing happen to Keon Ellis, at a time when the Kings are looking for anything positive, and in particular defensive help. There are ways to inspire better play, without punishing a player and simply relegating him to the end of the bench.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because the Sactown Ballers have just won three out of the last four, and just maybe Santa Claus is coming to town!

All the best and Merry Christmas to one and all!

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

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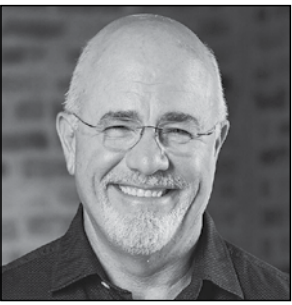
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Dave Ramsey Says

**Your Income is the Key
Find a Good Money Market Account**

After that, start throwing every nickel and dime you can scrape together, and save toward paying off those student loans as fast as possible.

Your income is your largest wealth-building tool, Jules. You can't save, and plan for the future, when all your money is flying out the door to pay off debt.

– Dave

Find a Good Money Market Account

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are completely debt-free, and we're saving up for our first house. We currently have about \$140,000 in savings, and we'd like to buy a home with cash when the time is right. Where should we put our money, so it will work for us while we save more?

– Andy

Dear Andy,

If I were in your shoes, and maybe looking at a window of three or four years, I'd just park the cash in a good money market account. You won't make a lot off it, but

your money will be safe. I mean, all you're looking for is a smart place to stash it for a little while.

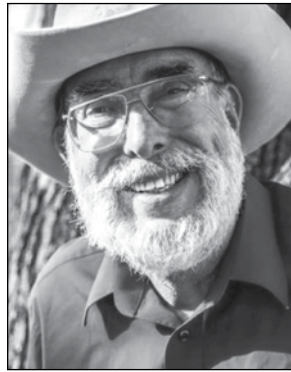
When it comes to long-term investing, I'm a big fan of growth stock mutual funds. The problem with that in your situation would be the volatility of the market. By the time you've saved up more money, and spent time deciding on a house, the market may be down.

You two are in a great place financially right now. With the path you're on, just imagine how incredible it will be in a few years to have a new home and be debt-free!

– 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 is a nighttime sweetness and hope that hovers over us this time of year here at home. This is a time for summing up and looking ahead ... and a time for dreams.

And at night... ah, that's the time, isn't it? Outside it's dark, December dark, and we're inside and warm and cocooned up. The cold makes our world shrink, especially at night.

But we have our dreams. For Janice Thomas, our art teacher at the high school, it's that painting

Here's to dreams.

she's planning. She makes starts at it, from time to time, but she's wise enough to know she isn't good enough to paint it yet. She paints other things well, but that one ... it has to be perfect. It will be the painting of a lifetime, she knows.

Doc will drift off to sleep tonight thinking about that new fly rod. He has half a dozen, of course, that will take about any weight line, and let him catch anything from mouse to moose. But even the most expensive rod isn't what he dreams of. This year, for Christmas, he's giving himself a rod-builder's jig, and he will make his own rod from a Sage blank. That will be the one. It will have his own

wrappings and he'll put the ferrules on it himself. He'll be able to feel the fish breathe with this one. It will be true and wonderful and last forever.

For cowboy Steve, the December dream is always the same: staying in that little cabin. The one with a turret and a corral. And hearing ol' Snort happily eating out there in the corral. And exploring. Time enough to explore those mountains with Snort.

There is a nighttime sweetness and hope that hovers over us this time of year.

Brought to you by that marvelous stocking stuffer, Home Country (the book) on Amazon.com. ★

Guilty Plea Entered by Defendant Who Committed 'Ninja' Assault

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Samuel Dickenson, 31, pled guilty Dec. 11 in Butte County Superior Court, where he faces a prison term of more than 16 years for charges of attempted murder, attempted sexual intercourse with a child under 10 years old and assault with a deadly weapon.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the plead was related to an August 2024 attack where Dickenson, disguised in an all-black ninja outfit, armed himself with knives and duct tape, and entered the home of a Magalia family about 10:40 p.m. with the intent to kidnap and rape an 8-year-old child who lived there.

Luckily, the child and her mother were not home at the time but the child's grandparents

were. Ramsey stated Dickenson stabbed the grandmother, 70, twice in the chest, while she was in the living room. When the grandfather, 72, came into the living room to rescue his wife, Dickenson beat him in the head repeatedly with a large roll of duct tape. The grandfather was also stabbed in the ribs during the altercation. The child's 13-year-old brother heard the commotion, locked himself in the residence's bathroom and called 911. Sheriff's deputies immediately responded, but Dickenson had fled.

The next day, Dickenson turned himself in to sheriff's detectives.

An investigation by detectives revealed Dickenson had planned the attack for several months, including where he planned to take the child to a remote Paradise area. The child and her family had lived temporarily with

Dickenson and his family in Durham after the 2018 Camp Fire.

The grandmother was taken to the hospital where she was treated and eventually released. The grandfather sought medical treatment for his injuries the next day. Both are recovering.

As part of his plea Dec. 11, Dickenson stipulated he would receive the upper-term maximum prison term of 16 years and four months when he is sentenced on Jan. 8, 2025.

Additionally, given the nature of the charges, the defendant will be subject to a screening by the Department of State Hospitals at the end of his prison sentence to determine his status as a sexually violent predator, which could result in his commitment to a secure state hospital for life.

Dickenson remains in custody in the Butte County Jail with no bail pending sentencing. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Raking is limited with me right now and I have a lot of leaves to rake. The plus is that I love the yard when it is glowing in golden leaves. The minus is I have some small ground cover starts I planted that will be killed if the leaves are left on them. So, I called in the troop of one that does not

like to rake but will use a blower all day long. I now have a large pile of leaves that I need to get into the green waste. We will probably be borrowing the neighbors green waste bins. That tree is no where near done dumping golden leaves. I'm going to have the best of both worlds. Safe baby plants and days of golden leaves everywhere. The hardest thing with falling leaves is how they get stuck on the thorns of the cactus. Some leaves I can get off, others not so much.

I've reconfigured my patio. Moved one nice big plant shelf to where the table used to be. That way plants that want bright light but nothing but early

morning sun will have that and I won't have to move the out of the sun when the shade shifts. The old table is falling apart. I've had that old thing from a second-hand store for thirty-five years. I ordered a new metal 3'X3' table. I was going to go second hand shopping and hopefully find something that would work. Instead, I found exactly what I wanted for the space. The table is eaten on once in a while but mostly it's a potting table.

We are creeping up on the Winter Solstice and the deep time of sleep for deciduous trees, but amazingly not the roots. While their roots go wild, I will find a good book and a warm blanket. ★



Farm Groups Work to expand Outreach on Groundwater Law

As implementation of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ramped up during the past couple years, farmers who learned late about the far-reaching law have encountered additional challenges. In 2017, Madera County farmer Makhan Singh borrowed money to purchase farmland and plant almond trees, long-term investments he may be unable to recoup due to the law's restrictions on groundwater pumping. As groundwater management tightens under SGMA in the coming years, some groups are expanding their efforts to educate farmers about the law.

Farmers Need Plan to Keep Employees Safe from Avian Flu


To protect employees who work with dairy cows and poultry from H5N1 bird flu, farmers should have a basic plan in place, even if their animals are not infected. Such advice and other guidelines were shared during a webinar last month hosted by the California Farm Bureau-affiliated Farm Employers Labor Service, or FELLS. As of Dec. 2, 31 human cases of H5N1 bird flu had been confirmed in California, according to the California Department of Public Health. All but one have been Central Valley dairy workers who had direct contact with infected cattle. The workers have all experienced mild symptoms, primarily eye infections, with no hospitalizations.

Farm Bureau Celebrates Success as Organization Prepares for 106th Annual Meeting

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass reflected on the organization's successes this year as it prepares to hold its annual meeting Dec. 7-10 in Monterey. "These are indeed challenging times for farmers and ranchers in California, yet it's in moments like these that the importance of celebrating our accomplishments shines even brighter," Douglass said. "With Annual Meeting just days after Thanksgiving, it's a perfect time to pause and count our blessings—not just as individuals, but as part of this amazing organization we call Farm Bureau."

Farm Income Declines in 2024 Amid Challenges for Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm income forecast for 2024 revealed a difficult year for the nation's agricultural producers. USDA projected net farm income at \$140.7 billion for 2024, down \$6 billion from 2023 and \$41.2 billion from \$181.9 billion in 2022 when net farm income reached its peak. "USDA's December report underscores the volatility of the U.S. farm economy as farmers face their second consecutive year of declining income," the American Farm Bureau Federation said in an analysis of the forecast. "Crop producers, in particular, face dramatic declines in cash receipts, with little hope for immediate relief as global supply chain disruptions continue and prices for key commodities remain depressed." ★



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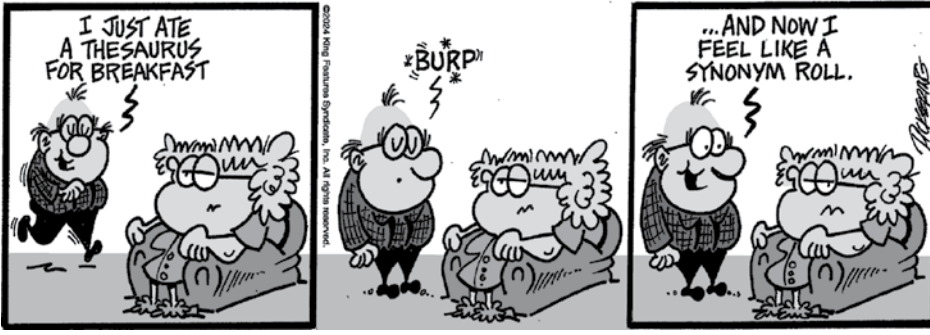


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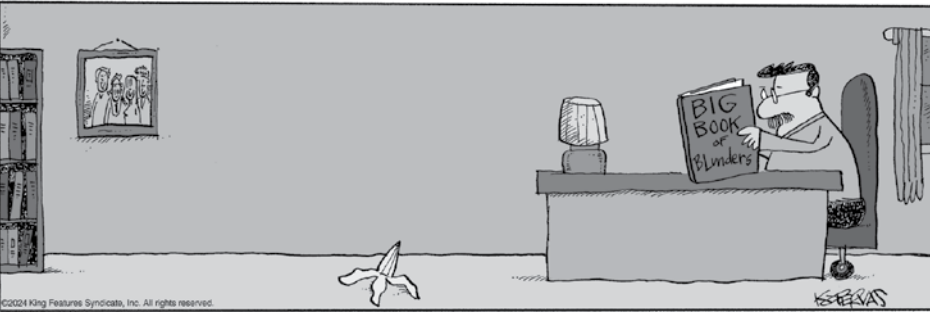
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pillow is larger. 2. Picture on wall is moved. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Necktie is added. 5. Apron is different. 6. Watch is added.

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • YEAR-IN-REVIEW

CLUES

- ACROSS
- Cerberus' domain
 - Chop
 - Mama's husband
 - Unsuitable
 - Adam's partner
 - Echo sounder
 - Sunny prefix
 - Armed conflict
 - In a heated manner
 - "Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical"
 - "Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cover model in 2024 (2 words)"
 - "_____ and the City"
 - Not exciting
 - Accident
 - Rani's dress
 - Talking points
 - Afflame
 - Spanish sparkling wine
 - Slang for money
 - Velum, pl.
 - "November 5th 2024 winner"
 - Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words)
 - Met's offering
 - River in Bohemia
 - Queen of Hearts' pastry
 - "Super Bowl winners in 2024"
 - Visi_____ or Ostr_____
 - The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the _____"
 - _____ of passage
 - "Milton's center"
 - "Miley Cyrus" Grammy-winning Record of the Year in 2024
 - "2024 Summer Olympic Games host"
 - Cat's nine
 - Lowest or highest card
 - Accustom
 - E-wallet content
 - Backstabber
 - N in RN
 - Whipping mark
 - R&R spot
 - Support person
- DOWN
- "Say what?"
 - All over again
 - "MV _____, cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse"
 - Long stories
 - Tends a fire
 - Obscene
 - Spermatozoa counterpart
 - Lost, in Paris
 - *Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court"
 - Dead against
 - Explore by touch
 - Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character
 - Hello, in Haifa
 - Dead-on
 - Last month
 - Disclose
 - Wrecked state
 - Bet's predecessor
 - Pileus, pl.
 - Like steak order
 - Maya Angelou, e.g.
 - Itsy-bitsy bits
 - *Caitlin of college

CROSSWORD														
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Law Enforcement Wants Information on School Shooting

By Shamaya Sutton

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 4, two students at Feather River Adventist School in Oroville were shot and sustained critical injuries. The victims were identified as 5-year-old Elias Wolford and 6-year-old Roman Mendez.

The boys were outside playing at recess when the shots were fired. Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea reported that Roman suffered two gunshot wounds that resulted in internal injuries and Elias, who was shot in the stomach, also suffered internal injuries. After undergoing surgery at a Sacramento-area hospital, both are reported to be in critical but stable condition.

As for the gunman, CBS 13 reported that a California Highway Patrol officer found the suspect later that same day, Dec. 4, deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Butte County Sheriff's Office identified the alleged gunman as 56-year-old Glenn Litton.

Honea said Litton was

best described as being homeless and spent most of his time between the Chico area and Sacramento. Police said that Litton has a lengthy criminal history and mental health issues. Most recently, Litton was recorded having contact with law enforcement in the San Francisco area on Nov. 12 with charges that involved a stolen rented vehicle from U-Haul and fake identification.

ABC 7 reported that on Nov. 20, Litton was transported to San Bernardino County to the West Valley Detention Center, where he was booked for a Sheriff's Automated Warrant for Burglary. Litton was then released from the West Valley Detention Center on O.R., which stands for "responsible party" on Nov. 21 after pleading not guilty.

According to the timeline compiled by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, Litton had been staying at a hotel in Chico and had used an Uber to arrive at a scheduled appointment at Feather River Adventist School. He met with the school's principal and took

a tour of the grounds posing as "Michael Sanders," a grandfather who wished to enroll his grandson. This fabricated story appears to have been used to help Litton get onto campus and gain access to the students. After completing his meeting, Honea said, Litton got up and appeared to leave but then backtracked through the breezeway to the playground. Surveillance footage then shows Litton reaching for his waistband, pulling out a firearm and initiating his attack, according to law enforcement.

On Dec. 4, authorities received information that led them to say the school might have been targeted for its affiliation to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Litton's exact motives remain unclear and the incident is under investigation, as of press time.

Sheriff Honea has asked anyone who might have information surrounding Litton's ideology or any information regarding him to contact the Butte County Sheriff's Office at 530-538-7322. ★

California Respects the Power of Your Vote

By Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., California Secretary of State

Californians can confidently claim this: California has made more significant reforms to our election laws and expanded voting rights than any other state.

The relevance of this accomplishment deepens as we prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act next year. This landmark legislation began to undo our country's long history of voter suppression, intimidation, and disenfranchisement that far too many Americans experienced at the polls for decades.

My own parents, who were sharecroppers, were denied their right to vote in the Jim Crow era South. Before moving to Los Angeles from Hope, Arkansas, my parents, David and Mildred Nash, could not vote. My father was an adult with six children before he registered to vote and was only able to exercise that constitutional right for the first time here in California.

As California Secretary of State, I do not take the progress we have made over the years lightly. My staff and I hold sacred the obligation to ensure that our elections are safe, free, fair, and accessible to all. Therefore, before certifying the results for this year's election on Dec. 13, we have taken a number of steps to ensure that every vote is counted. We have also made sure that our ballot counting process is credible and free from interference.

To meet that deadline without a hitch, California requires elections officials in all 58 counties to turn in their official results by a certain date. This year, that date was Dec. 6.

By law, every eligible voter in our state receives a vote-by-mail ballot. This ensures all registered voters can exercise their right to vote.

Whether you placed your ballot in a designated drop-off box, voted by mail, or cast your ballot at a polling center, votes are safe and secure. And we allow voters to sign up to receive text message, email, or voice call notifications about the status of their own ballots by using the Where's My Ballot? tool. To learn more or to sign up, paste this URL in your web browser: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

The ballots of Californians who voted by mail are also protected. The United States Postal Service partners with the State to make sure ballots are delivered on time. All mailed-in ballots are sent by First Class mail with a postage paid envelope provided to every eligible registered voter.

Election Security is our number one priority. That's why my office designed and implemented a program to back up that commitment. For more information, visit this URL: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-cybersecurity>

Additionally, California takes preventive actions to make sure our voting technology keeps our elections safe and protects everyone's votes.

For example, county voting systems are not connected to the internet, which protects them from cyber-threats. The State also performs regular and rigorous testing to make sure the voting systems are working optimally, and only authorized personnel are granted access.

Staff members are also given phishing and cybersecurity training.

VoteCal, the state's centralized voter registration system, is also key. The system is regularly updated, and it is used as a resource for counties to verify voter signatures.

California also provides security at all counting locations and makes sure ballot drop-off boxes are secured and monitored.

And all election processes are open to observation during specified hours.

In my role as Secretary of State of California, there is nothing more important to me than defending our democracy. I am committed to safeguarding voting rights, and to leading our state in upholding the highest democratic standards by implementing policies and practices that Californians and all Americans can trust and look to for instruction and hope.

You can contact the California Office of the Secretary of State at 1-800-345-Vote or elections@sos.ca.gov with inquiries or to report suspected incidents or irregularities. Additional information can be found at www.sos.ca.gov and the office's social media platforms:

Instagram: [@californiasos](https://www.instagram.com/californiasos)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/CaliforniaSOS](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaSOS)

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Winter Wonderland Lights Up the City



The newly-designated Christmas tree at the north end of Daddow Park did not disappoint. Photo by Chris Pedigo

Continued from page 1
 You a Merry Christmas” prior to the tree lighting.

The tree lighting was somewhat different this year. After many years of decorating the large cedar tree at Orchard Hospital, lights were placed this year on a tree at the north end of Daddow Park. That’s because the Orchard Hospital tree was deemed unsafe, due to the fire that burned a portion of it last year. There were also safety concerns for the CAL FIRE/ Gridley Fire Department employees who affixed the lights every year, as well as pedestrians crossing Spruce Street.

Nevertheless, the lighting of the newly designated tree was amazing, according to Spencer. Fire Chief Todd Farr flipped the switch.

The Parade of Lights commenced shortly thereafter, dazzling the crowd.

A police squad car led out, followed by the ROTC color guard and a fire engine. Quite a few off-road vehicles were interspersed throughout the procession, bedecked with

plenty of Christmas lights and passengers throwing candy.

Butte County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue brought a brightly-lit patrol boat. Dancers in the Latin dancing group ‘Ballet Folklorico Las Hijas de Mary’ danced their way through the parade route.

The Best of Show award went to Rotary International for their rendition of “The Polar Express.”

The first-place float was awarded to Waterbury Electric for depicting Santa in his sleigh, with “Sugar Storage LLC” and a large quantity of Christmas candy.

Second-place went to Anthony’s Balloons’ float, featuring a Santa and two snowmen made entirely of balloons.

Third-place went to Apples to Zebras Preschool, which had many children seated by a Christmas tree. A teacher waved to the crowd amidst glowing lights and many balloons.

The parade concluded with Santa riding on Fire Engine Number 274. ★



Rotary International won Best of Show with the Polar Express float. Photo by Chris Pedigo



Second-place went to Anthony’s Balloons for a creative entry with Santa and snowmen all made of balloons. Photo by Chris Pedigo



A very colorful show was put on by the ‘Ballet Folklorico Las Hijas de Mary’ dancers. Photo by Chris Pedigo



Waterbury Electric won first-place for the Santa’s sleigh and Sugar Storage LLC float. Photo by Chris Pedigo



The Butte County Royal Court sings “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” Photo by Chris Pedigo



Caroling group The Merry Songbirds entertained by adding an old-fashioned Christmas feel to the event. Photo by Chris Pedigo