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SEE INSIDE

New Laws for You in 2025

Live Oak City Council Welcomes New Member

By Shaunna Boyd

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The Live Oak City Council issued a resolution accepting the Nov. 5 election results and elected councilmembers were sworn in at its Dec. 12 meeting.

Two seats were up for election this year. Live Oak Vice-Mayor Nancy Santana was re-elected and Live Oak resident Aaron Pamma was elected as the new councilmember. Santana and Pamma took the oath of office and began their four-year terms.

City Council members then made their selections for mayor and vice-mayor. Vice-Mayor Santana nominated Councilmember Pamma to serve as mayor and it was seconded by Mayor Ashley Hernandez. Councilmembers Bob Woten and Jeremy Chapdelaine voted no, along with Councilmember Pamma, who said, "Thank you but no," so the motion failed.

Councilmember Woten then nominated Councilmember Chapdelaine for mayor, which was seconded by Pamma and unanimously approved by City Council.

Santana nominated Pamma for vice-mayor, which was seconded by Chapdelaine and unanimously approved.

City Council then heard the results of the annual backflow inspection, conducted by Graham Backflow Service. Interim Public Works Director Jeff Nelson said that the inspection identified 36 backflow preventers at residences within the city that require repair, as well as 10 backflow preventers that need full replacement. The total cost estimate is \$30,656.

"To comply with state requirements, these repairs have to be done," Nelson said, "and there is funding in the water budget to cover these costs."

When council approved the contract earlier this year, Chapdelaine said, it anticipated that some repairs would be needed.

"I don't know that we anticipated this many or a dollar amount that high, but for health and safety, it does need to be replaced," Chapdelaine said.

Council voted unanimously to approve the repairs and replacements.

City Council then discussed a continuing contract to lease the city's depot building (located at Highway 99 and Elm Street) to the Live Oak Lions Club. The existing five-year contract with the Lions Club was set to expire, so Parks and

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WRESTLERS COMPETE AT PIERCE HIGH MEET



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Starting Jan. 1, 2025, many significant new laws will go into effect across California, impacting everything in daily life from traffic regulations, employment, housing to healthcare. Image by LuckyLife11 from Pixabay

By Ormella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Starting Jan. 1, 2025, many significant new laws will go into effect across California, impacting everything in daily life from traffic regulations, employment, housing to healthcare.

TRAFFIC LAWS

Senate Bill 1107 will raise the minimum auto liability insurance requirements for California motorists. Currently, drivers must carry liability coverage of \$15,000 for injury or death of one person, \$30,000 for injury or death of multiple people, and \$5,000 for property damage. Beginning Jan. 1, these requirements will increase to \$30,000 for bodily injury or death of one person, \$60,000 for multiple persons and \$15,000 for property damage.

Assembly Bill 413, commonly known as the "Daylighting Law," will take effect in 2025, banning

drivers from parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk. This law aims to improve pedestrian safety by providing clearer visibility at intersections. The law applies to both marked and unmarked crosswalks, and while cities are working to implement signage and curb markings, not all areas will have red-painted curbs in time for the new rule.

Senate Bill 905 closes the "locked door loophole" in California's auto burglary laws. Under the new law, prosecutors no longer need to prove that a vehicle was locked in order to charge someone with burglary. Instead, they only need to show that forcible entry occurred. The change is expected to make it easier for victims of car break-ins to pursue legal action, with felony convictions carrying penalties ranging from 16 months to three years.

EMPLOYMENT LAWS

A statewide minimum wage increase will take effect on Jan. 1,

raising the rate to \$16.50 per hour for all employees, regardless of company size. This adjustment is based on a cost-of-living provision built into California's minimum wage law.

Senate Bill 1100 prohibits employers from requiring a valid driver's license for job applicants unless driving is a core function of the role. Employers must also demonstrate that using alternative transportation would not be comparable in travel time or cost.

HOUSING LAWS

Assembly Bill 2347 introduces stronger protections for renters by extending the timeline for tenants to respond to eviction notices. Under the new law, tenants will have 10 business days, up from the previous five-day deadline, to contest an eviction.

Starting in April, Senate Bill 611 will provide additional protections for renters in California by

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Bird Flu Update



Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) is actively monitoring the bird flu situation locally and coordinating with state and federal agencies. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

California Department of Public Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 18, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency regarding the bird

flu threat. The California Department of Public Health is providing an update on the bird flu situation. The current risk to the public remains low. No person-to-person spread of bird flu has been detected in California. People rarely

get bird flu, but those who interact with infected dairy cows, poultry, or wildlife have a greater risk of infection.

Pasteurized milk and dairy products are safe to consume. Pasteurization inactivates the bird

flu virus. California Department of Public Health is working to protect public health related to bird flu. We monitor infection data, evolving science, and the people affected. Our knowledge will

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The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

So many of the traditions around Christmas revolve around spending time with family. I'm very blessed to have my family home with Mrs. Cook and me this year. Families are the things that can bring you the most joy and/or the most heartache in this life. They are the primary relationships from when we are born and the people who we are closest to. This is not only a sociological phenomenon but a biological phenomenon in which these powerful bonds of connection exist in a family. It's easy to understand if we were going back to the earlier days of history that everybody needed to stick together to stay alive. Well, that is still an issue. The psychological, spiritual, and emotional family connections are incredibly significant. One of the reasons why so many people are drawn to doing their family history and studying their dead relatives is because they feel a sense of connection and bond with them. There is another emerging reason why families are important: Economics. Melissa S. Kearney, Neil Moskowitz Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland, in a speech entitled "Making strong families a national priority," offered mountains of research that clearly shows marriage as a public policy improves children's lives and reduces poverty and inequality. She shared, "Poverty rates are five times higher among children growing up in single-mother households as compared to those growing up in married-parent households... social

science evidence showing that the odds of graduating high school, getting a college degree, and having high earnings and being married as an adult are all substantially lower for children who grow up in single-mother homes. This is true even when we take into account the mother's background characteristics and other potential confounding factors. Research has established a clear link between family structure and children's outcomes both at an individual level and at a community level. A very recent influential study from the Opportunity Insights Lab at Harvard has shown that at a community level, the share of households headed by married parents is one of the most positive, strong predictors of a community's rate of upward mobility." Like I said at the top, the most joy and the most misery we will ever experience in this life comes from family relationships. Hence, it's very difficult to even bring up the topic of marriage, divorce, child custody, and the disadvantages that some family structures create for children and communities. Kearney addresses this by saying: "We need to break the intergenerational persistence of single-parent households and help more boys grow up to be reliable marriage partners and fathers. Everyone who cares about children, about women, about men, and about society, and about advancing equality of opportunity and outcomes, should care deeply about this problem of what has happened to the American family over the past four decades. Now, of course, in some situations, there is no real choice.

Some people are single parents because they are widowed, or because the second parent up and left, or because their relationship was abusive and violent. To be clear, nothing I am saying should be misconstrued to suggest

that anyone should stay in an abusive or violent situation. While we work to help more people achieve healthy relationships and stable two-parent families, we must also meet people where they are, acknowledge whatever hardships or barriers might prevent them from living in a married setting, and support them with the resources they need to thrive." Interestingly she continues "what we're seeing is that marriage has become something of a luxury good. Yet, another advantage enjoyed disproportionately by the most economically advantaged group in our society, the college-educated." As a chaplain, I've had the privilege of marrying people. I always feel good about it because all the statistics indicate that a couple that gets together in a committed and bonded relationship will have a happier, better, more stable, and more economically advantaged life. I particularly enjoy performing marriage ceremonies for people who already have a child together because I know that that child will do better in life if their mom and dad are married and together. So there are a couple of things you can do. The first thing is to be kind and mindful of those struggling as single parents, reach out to them, give them a little extra, do something a little bit nicer, and realize that they may be overwhelmed, and they love their children. The next thing to do is stand up for marriage and encourage people you know to commit- if they can't do it for spiritual, religious, or tradition - they should do it because it's statistically proven to be the best way to get ahead in life, more important than a college education. It's called the Buddy system, and it works.

Josh F.W. Cook is an administrator and educator. He was born in Gridley. ★

Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession Held



Millions visit the Basilica in Mexico yearly to see Juan Diego's cloak with the original image of the Virgin Mary. Courtesy photo

Story and photos by Connie Voss

GRIDLEY (MPG) - Gridley residents along Hazel, Virginia, Magnolia and Oregon streets saw the Our Lady of Guadalupe procession on the afternoon of Dec. 12. About 100 Sacred Heart Catholic Church members braved the rain and participated in the event.

The festivities were organized by Guadalupeanos Society members. Many in the procession wore brightly-colored costumes and carried Virgin Mary pictures. Some distributed free rosary beads. They were accompanied by police escorts and Gridley City Councilmember J. Angel Calderon. The procession made a complete circle, beginning and ending at the church.

Calderon said that the festival is a very ancient practice, predating the Spanish invasion of Mexico. He said a Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart was held the night before the procession.

After the procession, church members or "feligreses" celebrated at the church with traditional food, folklorico dancing, a plate fundraiser for the Guadalupeanos Society and religious offerings. The celebration was smaller than in years past when it was held at the Portuguese Hall, according to Calderon.

The festival or feast,



Sacred Heart Catholic Church members took to the streets for the Our Lady of Guadalupe procession on Dec. 12.



Ballet Folklorico Tonantzin de Gridley members ride in a pickup truck during the procession.

also known as El Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe, celebrates the Virgin Mary's appearance to Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City in 1531. According to Catholic tradition, the image of the Virgin Mary was imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak or tilma. The tilma has survived nearly 500 years. It is displayed under bullet-proof glass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. More than 20 million visitors go to the basilica each year, which makes it the most visited

Catholic church in the world.

The Catholics believe the cloak has healing power.

The Virgin of Guadalupe has since become a national symbol of the faith and identity of Mexico.

Catholics throughout the world celebrate the event, with pilgrimages, masses, processions and children's blessings. They look forward to Dec. 12, 2031, the 500th anniversary of the Virgin Mary's visitation to Juan Diego. ★

Firefighters Rescue Kitten



Above: Fire truck number 74 was dispatched for the kitten rescue after a neighbor called 911. Circle: Firefighters Dakota McGinnis and Hunter Noel rescued this kitten. Photos courtesy of Lisa Van De Hey

By Connie Voss

GRIDLEY (MPG) - CAL FIRE Truck 74 was dispatched Dec. 17 to rescue a kitten from the top of a tall tree on Vermont Street. The cat's neighbor called 911 and Firefighters Hunter Noel and Dakota McGinnis responded. Noel climbed the ladder and McGinnis was the operator.

"We usually wait a little while to see if the cat comes down on its own," Noel said.

But because it was a kitten, they

decided that action was needed sooner.

The Fire Department has received three animal calls within a month's time. One was for a cat stuck behind a water heater. Firefighters had to take the water heater out to retrieve the cat. Another call was for puppies stuck in a crawl space.

"We're always happy to help," Noel said. "Never hesitate to call after you have exhausted other ways of getting the animal down or out, such as coaxing them with food, etc." ★

Live Oak City Council Welcomes New Member

Continued from page 1
Recreation Director Luis Cibrian presented an updated five-year contract. As the only service club in Live Oak, Cibrian said, the Lions Club provides significant contributions to the Live Oak community. The updated contract would continue the existing terms, allowing the Lions Club to use the building for its weekly meetings. The city would not charge any fee or rent for the usage but the Lions Club would be responsible for maintaining the building.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion by Santana, who said she would like to see the formation of a Live Oak Chamber of Commerce or similar organization, and if one were established, she wanted to ensure they would have a place to hold meetings. Santana asked if this contract would exclude other service clubs from using the building.

Legal counsel said that the agreement is non-exclusive.



Nancy Santana, left, and Aaron Pamma take the oath of office to begin their four-year terms on the Live Oak City Council. Photo provided by the City of Live Oak

It gives the Lions Club rights of usage but the city also retains the ability to use the building. And the City Council can also grant other organizations usage if the meeting schedule doesn't conflict with the Lions Club meetings.

Councilmember Woten and Mayor Chapdelaine both mentioned some areas of the building need new paint, so they asked that staff set up a meeting with the Lions Club president to ensure necessary upkeep is completed.

City Council voted unanimously to approve the new contract with the

Lions Club.

During council comments, Vice-Mayor Pamma thanked Live Oak residents for their support in the election and said he is looking forward to working with the other councilmembers over the next four years.

"The amount of influence this table has goes a long way. The City Council holds influence, and there's a lot of changes and positive impacts we can all make together," Pamma said.

The next Live Oak City Council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 15 at 9955 Live Oak Blvd. ★

A California Child Tested Positive for Bird Flu



A flock of geese takes off on a flooded-out field at the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 1, 2023. A strain of bird flu circulating in California has infected thousands of cattle and several dozen people. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

By Kristen Hwang, CALMatters.org

An Alameda County child with mild upper respiratory symptoms tested positive for bird flu, state public health officials announced on Nov. 19. The potential infection is the first known case in California that does not appear to have originated from contact with infected cattle.

State health officials are waiting for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to confirm the test result, as of press time.

Public health investigators suspect the infection may have originated from wild birds, which are the main carriers of bird flu, according to a statement from the California Department of Public Health. The agency did not disclose information describing the child's interactions with wildlife.

The child displayed mild respiratory symptoms and tested positive for multiple viruses, according to Austin Wingate, a spokesperson for the Alameda County health department.

Doctors did not initially suspect bird flu. Officials detected

it through routine influenza subtyping, Wingate said. Family members tested negative for bird flu, but they had other viruses.

Officials are working to notify and test close contacts of the child, which include individuals at a daycare the child attended.

"We want to reinforce for parents, caregivers and families that based on the information and data we have, we don't think the child was infectious — and no human-to-human spread of bird flu has been documented in any country for more than 15 years," said state Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón.

Aragón emphasized the risk to the general public remains low. People can become infected through close contact with infected animals, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Dairy and poultry workers and people who work with wildlife face the greatest risk of contracting the virus.

Some infectious disease experts are concerned about what this case could signal about the wider bird flu outbreak sweeping the country, which started in 2022.

"We're seeing the numbers go up, the number of infected farms, the number of farm workers, we now have this child. All of these signs to me suggest that things are going in the wrong direction, not the right direction," said Sam Scarpino, an epidemiologist with Northeastern University in Boston who is not involved in the California disease investigation.

Cases spreading in Central Valley dairies

The case comes as California grapples with the country's largest bird flu outbreak among cattle and farmworkers. There are 26 confirmed human cases of bird flu primarily in the Central Valley where the virus has swept through 335 herds, according to state health and agriculture officials. Workers in the dairy industry have contracted the virus through close contact with infected cows.

The state health department has distributed more than 3 million pieces of personal protective equipment to farmworkers. It has also secured 5,000 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine for farmworkers from the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention.

The federal government has a small stockpile of bird flu vaccines, but they have not been distributed. Instead, health officials encourage people to get vaccinated for influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus to help prevent co-infections like the child had.

"We want to make sure in general that we promote people getting up to date on vaccines and protecting themselves from seasonal illness, from seasonal flu," said Dr. Erica Pan, the state's top epidemiologist, in a previous interview with CalMatters.

Scarpino said California has done a good job of testing farmworkers compared to other states where sick cattle have infected humans, contributing to its relatively high number of confirmed cases, but surveillance efforts across the board need to be increased.

As seasonal flu rates increase, it will become harder for public health laboratories to detect rare viruses, such as H5N1, the bird flu, Scarpino said.

Bird Flu Present in California Sewage

The bird flu virus has appeared in 17 wastewater systems in California, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Positive detections appear primarily in Northern California, including in Alameda, San Francisco, Sonoma, Contra Costa and Sacramento. Wastewater surveillance cannot determine the source of the virus, but infections among wild waterfowl can contribute to its presence.

Maurice Pitesky, a researcher at UC Davis who studies bird flu in waterfowl, said it's rare for the virus to jump from birds to humans but it has happened before. The virus is endemic among wild birds, Pitesky said, and has also been detected in other mammals in California, including bobcats, skunks and mountain lions.

"As the virus further evolves within a mammalian host — whether it's dairy cows or felines or all the species that it has affected — it will continue to adapt," Pitesky said. "As it adapts more and more, it has more potential to cause even more problems." ★

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Farm Bureau Delegates Approve Policies

California Farm Bureau approved changes to the organization's policies last week during a House of Delegates session at the organization's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey. Farm Bureau develops policy recommendations each year through its Commodity Advisory Committees, which are groups of members that meet regularly throughout the year. This year, delegates voted to approve proposed updates to policies related to wolf management, crop insurance and eminent domain.

Increased Almond Shipments Signal Better Times Ahead

Despite economic challenges for those in the almond business, the Almond Board of California painted an optimistic outlook for the industry, emphasizing the organization's ongoing efforts to build demand for the nut by easing trade barriers and making new strides in marketing, innovation and research. Almond Board President and CEO Clarice Turner said the board is "confident that better days lie ahead." She noted "tangible signs" of robust demand for almonds, with the industry having shipped more than 200 million pounds of the nut for 11 straight months.

Annual Meeting Workshop Takes on Navigating SGMA

Ten years into the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, local agencies are implementing plans and projects to achieve long-term sustainability in aquifers by limiting overdraft, land subsidence and impacts to drinking water. Navigating SGMA challenges, including the probation process under the California State Water Resources Control Board and how to fund and implement groundwater sustainability plans, was discussed as part of an educational workshop for members at the California Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey last week.

Startups Get Help to Speed New Tech to California Farmers

UCANR Innovate, the innovation arm of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, has opened applications for its VINE Connect program. California farmers are at the heart of global food production, but staying ahead requires constant innovation. To meet this challenge, VINE Connect bridges the gap between innovation and application by helping entrepreneurs tailor proven technologies for farmers to ease weed control, harvest and other farming tasks. Each year, the VINE Connect program runs three cohorts, each centered on different focus areas within California agriculture. ★

New Laws for You in 2025

Continued from page 1

prohibiting landlords from charging tenants a fee for paying their rent or security deposit by check. In addition, landlords will be required to provide a written statement to tenants if they charge a security deposit that exceeds the standard amount.

CRIME

Senate Bill 1414 introduces stricter penalties for individuals convicted of soliciting a minor for sex. The law raises the crime of soliciting or buying sex from minors under 16 from a misdemeanor to a felony, carrying more severe legal consequences. If the person solicited is under 16, or under 18 and a victim of human trafficking, the offense could be punishable by jail time of up to a year and a fine of up to \$10,000 or a prison sentence ranging from 16 months to three years. For repeat offenders, the penalties are harsher, with mandatory felony charges and a prison sentence of 16 months to three years.

EDUCATION

In the education sector, Assembly Bill 1780 prohibits private nonprofit universities in California from considering legacy status in admissions. The ban, effective in September 2025, means that ties to donors or alumni will no longer play a role in college admissions decisions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

In a move aimed at consumer protection, Assembly Bill 2863 will require companies offering auto-renewal services to provide customers with an easy option to cancel subscriptions. Starting July 1, 2025, consumers will be able to cancel their subscriptions by the same method they used to sign up.

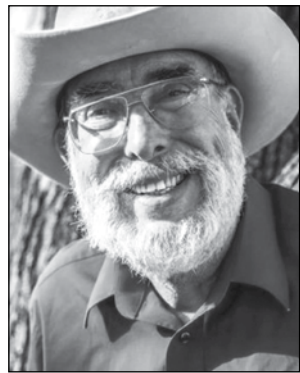
HEALTH

A major update in healthcare comes with Senate Bill 729, which mandates that health insurance plans cover the diagnosis and treatment of infertility, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), starting July 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 1061 will protect consumers by prohibiting credit reporting agencies from including medical debt on their credit reports, ensuring that such debt cannot negatively impact individuals' credit scores.

Assembly Bills 1817 and 2771 will ban the use of harmful chemicals known as PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in clothing, textiles and cosmetics sold in California. These chemicals, which have been linked to serious health issues such as liver damage, thyroid disease, reproductive problems and cancer, will no longer be allowed in products. ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

Sometimes it's just a child's smile and a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas

kids were coming over, this being necessary as Mabel's memory isn't what it used to be. And she put a sprig of imitation holly in her hair and tied a red ribbon on the other side.

The little girl smiled and walked over to Mabel. "Are you a grandma?" she asked.

"Why, yes dear, I am."

"I brought you a present, Grandma," she said, handing a box to Mabel. Mabel opened it and was delighted at the sandalwood-scented hankies inside.

"Why thank you so much, Honey!" she said. "And what is your name?" "I'm Candice. I'm four."

"Well, Candice, merry Christmas to you. Have you been here before?"

"Well ... no, I guess. Mom said this is where the grandmas are and we can have fun bringing presents to the grandmas."

"I see," Mabel said. "Well, Candice, come over here, dear and let me give you a hug. There!"

Sometimes, it isn't the cost of the hankies, or the fun wrapping them up. Sometimes it's just a child's smile and a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas.

Just to show how many wonderful people live in your town, go out and so something to help someone else. Just cuz. Merry Christmas. ★

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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





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Finding the Handle to Inflation Reduction

Nine out of ten new businesses fail within the first two years of startup and of those businesses, the restaurant business can be one of the toughest.

I am always amazed at how some restaurant owners just don't get it as to how to best turn a profit and keep their customers happy.

I have never run a restaurant business but my wife's father had one for 40 years and I frequent dining establishments a lot because of my work and the travel it entails.

First off, it matters how good the food is of course, but I've been served cold soup, brown, wilted lettuce, broken eggs, toast coming late, meals served sporadically instead of all patrons getting their meals at the same time. You name it, it's all inexcusable.

But there are so many other things that can hurt a restaurant to the point where folding up shop eventually becomes necessary.

The face of the business are the staff out front, and needless to say if they are under trained, not trained at all, ornery, rude or just plain not likeable, the restaurant is off to a bad start.

Not having your ducks in a row on opening day is a killer. Sure, there are some people that will give you a break on this one, but not me and many others like me. You either have it together or don't open until you do. Either that or give a break on the price, but of course, that never happens.

New restaurants, by the fact that they are new, will usually garner lots of customers, but if someone has a bad experience, he or she will be sure to tell their friends and there goes a whole slew of people that might have come through the doors.

Restaurants live and die by word of mouth and owners have to be sure the word will be a glowing one.

Cleanliness is tantamount. I've been to a sandwich shop whose bathroom was disgusting. Another supposedly 5 star steak house in Portland had a cart of dirty dishes in the entrance way. A well-known eatery up near my house had an entrance area that smelled like soured fruit. Floors with leftover food from previous customers, dirty or greasy condiment containers on your table, crumbs on your seat or gum under that table all reek of poor management.

Paying attention to the details as to what is served and when, is also a way to maximize profits and might mean the difference between staying open or locking the doors somewhere down the line.

For example, a popular chain restaurant

in the Carolinas I visited was packed every night. When I asked the waitress, who was obviously very well trained what the secret was, she said she had a full week of training, both written, off duty and with a trainer in real time.

They had strict rules: Sit people at clean tables and floors always and each was checked prior to seating. Offer cocktails within 3 minutes of seating and get those to the table immediately along with menus. They knew that alcohol stimulates appetite, throws frugality out the window and that drinks are highly profitable. People with a bit of booze in them order more, are more patient and also order more drinks. They never brought breadsticks or whatever before people ordered their food as it fills them up and they order less. All meals were checked by the cook, a main cook or manager and the server as to temperature, accuracy and appearance and any one person in the loop could turn food back without fear of retribution.

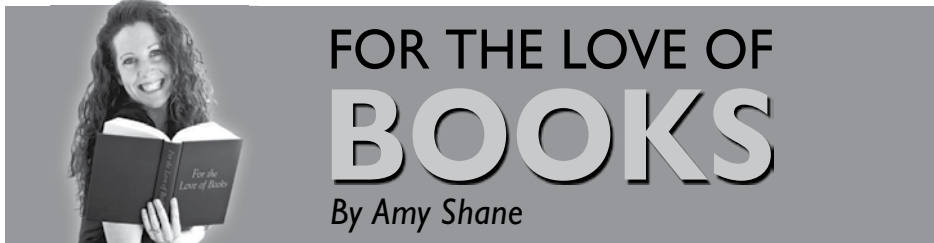
"Brilliant" I thought. What a concept: Well trained, thoughtful service and timing, clean surroundings and attention to every detail.

In conclusion, a word about restaurant reviews. We have a few restaurant review social media sights and many are rife with positive reviews and positive reviews only. Post a bad review and some people even chastise the posting party for not being understanding when it comes to the difficulty of running such an establishment.

Excuse me, but reviews are supposed to be honest. Sure it might be harsh on the owners, but people work hard for their money and deserve to get their money's worth. Brain surgery is hard too but who is going to be "understanding" if they blow it because they are new or having a bad day. Honest reviews better both customers and restaurant owners. Customers get value and owners get to know what they're doing wrong so they can fix it and survive. And isn't both of these goals what we're all after?

"Watching the markets so you don't have to"

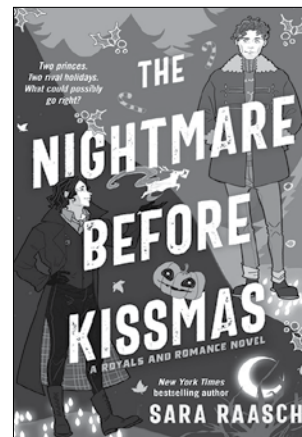
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Holiday Drama Continues with These New Reads

When the holidays are over, but the drama is, are you looking for a holiday escape? These books will whisk any reader away from the stress of the holidays, but watch out—they may be too distracting.



The Nightmare Before Kissmas – A Royals and Romance Novel
by Sara Raasch; Bramble Publishing

Nicholas "Cole" Claus always loved Christmas until his dad made it all about publicity and marketing. Now, he will do anything to escape his upcoming reign as Santa. As heir to Christmas, Nicholas is betrothed to Iris, the Ester Princess, and his brother's crush, making the whole situation even more of a nightmare.

Then Cole's rival arrives to challenge his hand in marriage to Iris, throwing him into the path of the Prince of Halloween, Hex. As a fake competition ensues, everything becomes a mess, opening the door to a swoony rom-com of emotions. With new feelings, fake competitions, and a marriage of convenience, this rom-com becomes a whimsical, fun, romantic romp.

Halloween and Christmas collide in this fun holiday mash-up, combining off-limits romance, magic, fantasy, and holiday royalty. The Nightmare Before Kissmas was an instant viral sensation combining The Nightmare Before Christmas along with the popular book Red, White, & Royal Blue and is sure to bring some holiday cheer and steamy romance.



You Better Watch Out A Thriller
by James S. Murray and Darren Wearmouth, St. Martin's Press

Just when you think Christmas is safe—think again. It's 48 hours until Christmas, but Jessica, along with a group of strangers, will find themselves in a terrifying predicament. Trapped in an unknown deserted town, six strangers will fight for their lives. Not sure how any of them got there. Jessica knows one thing for sure: she must find a way out. With a serial killer on the loose and their lives in the balance, Jessica quickly learns this Christmas could be a true Silent Night.

From the minds of two internationally best-selling authors, James S. Murray—"Murr" from Impractical Jokes and International author Darren Wearmouth, comes a terrifying read just in time for the Holidays. A storyline that makes sure readers know why each character has been abducted, combined with scenes from the killer's POV, makes for a truly chilling and atmospheric read. With this book's frightening tone and creepy vibes, readers will find the perfect holiday escape that will keep them up late. ★

Can New State Regulations Resolve California's Existential Insurance Crisis?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

There's no law requiring California property owners to carry insurance, but the vast majority buy it to protect themselves from fire and other perils, or are required to do so by their mortgage lenders.

There's also no law requiring insurance companies to offer coverage in California, but most would prefer to do so in the nation's most immense concentration of property needing protection.

For decades, insuring California's homes, farms and commercial properties was a hum-drum business of willing sellers and willing buyers. However, the former have become less willing as the state experiences an ever-increasing number of wildfires — even during winter months — that devastate homes and businesses in fire-prone areas.

Last Friday, as the latest of those fires was driving people from their homes in the quaint seaside village of Malibu, Ricardo Lara, the state's elected insurance commissioner, formally unveiled a large chunk of his plan to stem the exodus of insurers from California.

It would allow insurers to use computer modeling of future exposure to set premiums, while requiring them to offer coverage in risky communities roughly in line with

their shares of the market. Until now, insurers set rates based on past losses.

"Giving people more choices to protect themselves is how we will solve California's insurance crisis," Lara said in a statement as he released details of the modeling plan. "For the first time in history we are requiring insurance companies to expand where people need help the most. With our changing climate we can no longer look to the past. We are being innovative and forward-looking to protect Californians' access to insurance."

He also noted that in setting rates, insurers will be required to consider hardening efforts by threatened communities and property owners to reduce potential losses.

Lara claims support from environmental groups, farmers and other stakeholders, in addition to insurers. But he's drawing sharp criticism from Consumer Watchdog, an organization that has sponsored landmark changes in insurance regulation. The group has also received millions of dollars in fees from intervening in insurance rates cases, and has been a harsh critic of Lara throughout his time in office.

"Full transparency is what keeps insurance rates honest but Commissioner Lara's rule does away with that protection," Consumer Watchdog executive director Carmen Balber said in a statement. "The rule will let insurance companies raise rates based on secret algorithms but not expand coverage as promised."

The new rules take effect in January. Farmers Insurance, California's

second-largest property insurer, has already pledged to expand its coverage in response to Lara's actions. The American Property Casualty Association, a trade group, also reacted positively.

"California will continue to have a robust regulatory and rate approval process that guarantees that rates reflect the actual cost of covering claims," the association said.

While the rules unveiled last week are central to Lara's plans, there are other elements that remain: shoring up the FAIR Plan, California's last ditch insurer for property owners who cannot obtain coverage elsewhere, speeding up insurance rate case approvals, and allowing insurers to include costs of reinsurance — coverage of their potential losses — in setting rates.

Adoption of Lara's plans may result in premium increases, but maintaining a viable insurance market is a vital factor in the state's economy. The inability to buy insurance would devastate the residential and commercial real estate markets and require property owners to pay for fire losses out of their own pockets.

Lara's plans may not be perfect, but nobody — including Consumer Watchdog — has offered a better alternative. He should be credited with at least attempting to deal with one of California's existential crises.

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

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Dave Ramsey Says Compromises Are Part of Marriage



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have been married for two years, and we both have good jobs. Together, we bring home around \$190,000 combined. We also have \$100,000 in a savings account, and no debt except for our mortgage. A couple of weeks ago, I was contacted about an opportunity to take a job in commercial real estate in my hometown. To be honest, this kind of work has been a dream of mine for several years. The problem is my wife is upset by the idea of moving. She says it's because she doesn't want to be even further away from her family, but it seems like something else is bothering her. Do you have any advice?

- Freddie

Dear Freddie,

Anytime you're in a relationship and something like this happens, it's a little like making a sale in that you've got to dig out the

real reason for the objection. It could very well be that she doesn't want to be further away from her family, and that's natural—to an extent. But like you said, there could be other factors involved.

There might be something in your past that bothers her, or something she doesn't want you to revisit. There may even be feelings of discomfort with your family for things that have happened or been said. It could also be the insecurity that goes along with a move, a new home and a new job. I don't know how far away you're talking about moving, but it could also be she's worried about leaving her job.

From a relationship standpoint, you two each need to lay your cards on the table and be honest with each other. Open up, and really talk about it. Otherwise, it's going to become a sore spot and cause even more problems. Part of marriage is making compromises. Sometimes compromises must be made by one, or both, people in order to do what's best for the re-

lationship in the present and in the long run.

It could be that you just need an impartial referee. Would you both be willing to attend a few sessions with a good pastor or marriage counselor together? Talking to either one doesn't mean your marriage is on the rocks, but sometimes a compassionate and objective third party can help dig down below the surface to uncover issues and help find a reasonable solution to problems.

I hope this helps. God bless you both, Freddie.

- 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. ★

Bird Flu Update

Continued from page 1

change as we learn more. We are committed to reducing the impact to those at highest risk.

Confirmed Human Cases

As of Dec. 20, there are 36 confirmed cases of bird flu in humans. In 35 of those cases, the exposure source was determined to be cattle.

California's Response

On Dec. 18, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to strengthen California's robust response to bird flu. California Department of Public Health is working with local, state and federal partners to monitor bird flu in farm animals and people who work closely with poultry and dairy cows.

California has distributed protective gear to dairy farms and workers. People who work with infected dairy cows or raw milk should use protective gear to reduce the risk of getting bird flu.

Public health leaders are helping ensure individuals with symptoms of bird flu have access to testing and treatment, if needed. California has received 5,000 additional seasonal flu vaccines for people who work with dairy cows in the Central Valley. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against serious illness from seasonal flu and may reduce the chance of human and bird flu viruses mixing and becoming more dangerous.

Updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older. Visit [www.https://myturn.ca.gov/](https://myturn.ca.gov/) to schedule your appointment today.

What is Bird Flu?

Bird flu, also known as avian influenza A (H5N1) or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), is caused by a virus that can cause serious illness and death in birds and mammals. Human infections with bird flu viruses are rare, but they can happen when the virus gets into a person's eyes, nose, mouth, or when inhaled.

What are the symptoms of bird flu in humans?

Bird flu symptoms include eye redness or discharge, headaches, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, diarrhea, vomiting, muscle or body aches, fatigue, trouble breathing, fever (100 degrees F or higher), pneumonia and seizures.

Symptoms can be serious and lead to death.

Who is at higher risk of getting bird flu?

You are at higher risk if you work with or are around poultry, dairy cows, alpacas, wildlife or raw (unpasteurized) milk. This includes any contact with animal fluids, feces, or feathers.

How does bird flu spread?

It spreads from sick cows, birds, or other infected animals to people by breathing in dust or droplets with the virus. Splashing raw milk from an infected cow in your eyes, nose or mouth. Touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands after touching raw milk, cow or bird feces, or other contaminated items or surfaces. Handling sick or dead animals infected with the virus. Drinking raw milk.

How do I avoid getting bird flu?

Avoid contact with infected animals. Avoid direct contact with birds and other animals that could be infected with bird flu. Wild birds can be infected with bird flu even if they don't look sick.

Get the seasonal flu vaccine. California Department of Public Health recommends that all Californians, especially workers at risk for exposure to bird flu, receive a seasonal flu vaccine. While the seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against bird flu, getting vaccinated can lower the risk of being infected with both seasonal flu and bird flu at the same time. Getting vaccinated also reduces the chance of severe illness from seasonal flu.

Only consume pasteurized dairy products. The bird flu virus can be present in raw, unpasteurized milk. Unpasteurized milk may contain other germs that can make you sick. Do not touch or consume raw milk or raw milk products. Pasteurized milk and dairy foods are safe to eat.

What if I get bird flu?

Tell your employer right away. Contact your local public health department right away to arrange for testing and treatment. Tell them you may have been exposed to bird flu. Visit the California Department of Public Health website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/> for additional information. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Happy New Year! Let's start out with our local USDA zone which is 9b. This means our lows are usually 25-30 degrees. I checked this because I'm thinking and working with my Abutilons. Known as Flowering Maple, although their leaves appear maple-like, abutilons aren't closely related to maple trees. The abutilons in most gardens are hybrids. They have cultivar names like:

• **Abutilon 'Bartley Schwarz'** salmon-colored blooms.

• **Abutilon 'Canary Bird'**: a rounded growth habit and extremely long-lasting, trumpet-shaped, yellow flowers.

• **Abutilon 'Kentish Belle'**: two-toned, bell-shaped flowers of apricot-yellow with purple stamens.

• **Abutilon 'Souvenir de Bonn'**: red-veined, orange flowers and brightly variegated leaves.

• **Abutilon 'Tiger Eye'**: red-and-yellow flowers that hang down like Christmas ornaments while in bud.

• **A . p i c t u m 'Thompsonii'**: attractive mottled yellow leaves offset by salmon-colored flowers.

These plants come in a wide variety of sizes. Some like pictum Thompsonii grow to 15'. Others stay 2-4' tall. They can handle morning sun most of the summer with some filtered shading in

the late afternoon. They like to be fertilized and watered regularly. The huge plus in our area is that these plants bloom most of the year including Winter. If you like them tall and fabulous then make room and let them go. If like my yard your space is limited due to loving so many types of plants, then you must prune. Tip pruning can produce a fuller bush with many dangling lantern-like flowers. I am in the midst of hard pruning the big ones in the front yard. They totally took advantage of my bad back and went for it so now I have to wrestle them back into their respective places. So sad to do this because they are full of flowers and look wonderful. I'll be sharing more about this plant to get in 2025 if you don't have it already. Happy cold gardening. ★

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Ear is larger. 2. Button is added. 3. Apron is longer. 4. Broom is narrower. 5. Cash register is missing. 6. Awning is not as wide.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT by Dave T. Phipps

"My diet was going well until I had those visions of sugar plums."

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Le Corbusier's art
- "The Matrix" protagonist
- Captures
- Funkiness in the air
- Vegetative state
- Capital of Vietnam
- Fairy tale villain
- Beware of these in March
- Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"
- "Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"
- The Beehive State
- Burn with coffee, e.g.
- Tire meas.
- Sea nymph
- Salad dressing option
- "Pierre Boule's Cornelius
- Hoity-toity
- Back arrow key
- Covered with sphagnum
- Tiny Tim's guitar
- Allegro ____, in music
- Sign of escape
- Apprehension
- Emergency responder, acr.
- Neuron junction
- Sleeping sickness vector
- "Katniss Everdeen's sister
- Hammerin' Hank
- Tennis "innings"
- 2010 film starring DiCaprio
- Meat of coconut
- Desperate
- Karl of politics
- 1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver
- Fail to mention
- Bo Peep's females
- **Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author
- Was ahead
- *Spock's are pointy

DOWN

- Point of entry
- Side of a ruler, e.g.
- S or C follower, in business
- Two-word threat
- Relating to node
- Make corrections
- Kin for hops
- *Captain Nemo's submarine
- Tolstoy's Karenina
- This and that
- Bro's sibling
- Droning insect
- Niger and Nigeria language
- In an unfriendly manner
- Parent org.
- "He named ____"
- Strong adhesive
- Pine juice
- Original thought
- Garment enlarger
- *"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author
- Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ____"
- *Frank Herbert's famous novel
- "I Like ____" 1950s campaign slogan
- **"Where no man has gone before" TV series
- "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
- "It's no ____!"
- Beale of Memphis, e.g.
- South Korean port
- Main dish
- Japanese cartoon art
- Like thick smoke
- Solo, pl.
- Long narrative poem
- Worshipped one
- Minnesota's southern neighbor
- Last word on radio
- Famed loch
- Rogue or rascal

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Riley Reviews

“JUROR #2” DELIGHTS WITH NARRATIVE TWISTS OF COURTROOM DRAMA

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“JUROR #2” Rated PG-13

Courtroom dramas have the ability to be riveting entertainment that capture one’s rapt attention for every possible twist and turn during heightened moments of revealing developments.

Classic films, like “To Kill a Mockingbird” with Henry Fonda defending a black man against a false rape charge in small-town Alabama in 1932 or “Witness for the Prosecution” with Charles Laughton defending Tyrone Power accused of murder, have produced enthralling courtroom dramas.

None of the many films in the genre may surpass the spellbinding allure of Sidney Lumet’s classic 1957 legal drama “12 Angry Men,” where a dozen men in a New York City murder trial deliberate on the fate of a teenager accused of killing his abusive father.

As Juror #8, Henry Fonda is the only one who initially questions the evidence and resists an immediate rush to judgment and wants to have discussion on the case because he has a feeling of reasonable doubt.

Without a long, torturous summation of the path to the eventual outcome, it should be noted that “12 Angry Men,” with its excellent cast of notable actors and nominated for an Academy Award Best Picture, is arguably the best legal drama of all time.

Well into his tenth decade, Clint Eastwood is an institution all to himself in a long career as actor, director and producer, most recently starring in 2021’s “Cry Macho.” His likely final directorial effort may be “Juror #2,” which seems largely inspired by “12 Angry Men.”

In Sidney Lumet’s film, an honorable man stands unaided by his fellow jurors to not reach a hasty verdict. The similar situation in “Juror #2” hinges less on ethical qualms and more on muddled moral grounds.

The titular character turns out to be Justin Kemp (Nicholas Hoult), a writer for a Georgia magazine that he describes as not being “Vanity Fair.” His wife Allison (Zoey Deutch) is in the final stage of a precarious pregnancy.

Summoned to serve on a jury for a murder trial, Justin wants to get out of this duty since the couple suffered a miscarriage the year before, and he feels the need to stay close to home.

The judge (Amy Aquino) is this case fails to entertain his request to be excused, and neither the prosecutor Faith Killebrew (Toni Collette) nor the defense attorney Eric Resnick (Chris Messina) object to his

selection for the murder case.

The accused is James Michael Sythe (Gabriel Basso), an ill-tempered guy in a volatile relationship with his girlfriend Kendall (Francesca Eastwood). After a night of drinking at a local bar, James becomes abusive and Kendall walks away alone on a rainy night.

Many people at the bar witness the altercation between the couple in the parking lot and notice James driving away, seemingly following her in his car as she takes off on foot down a dark highway.

The next day, Kendall’s body is discovered by a hiker in a creek off the side of the road. An old man living in a nearby trailer identifies James as the man he saw that night standing on the highway near the scene of the crime.

Political ramifications enter into the courtroom case because Prosecutor Killebrew is campaigning for district attorney in the fast-approaching election and needs to prove her crimefighting credentials to pull off an electoral victory.

A major question that arises early in the judicial proceedings is whether Justin, known only as Juror #2 during the trial, finds himself questionably compromised since he realizes he was at the same roadside bar on the night Kendall was killed.

As a recovering alcoholic, Justin feels not only guilty for ordering a drink he didn’t touch, but on the drive home he hit something on the road. As he got out the car, all he could see was a “deer crossing” sign and assumed that’s what he may have hit.

Not only did Justin tell his wife that the damage to the car happened on another road so that she wouldn’t know he stopped at a bar, but he develops a nagging feeling during the trial that maybe he’s the one at fault.

This is where the trial gets interesting because the morally conflicted Justin is at first the lone holdout on a guilty verdict, which would solve his personal dilemma of wanting to move on.

But then a retired cop (J.K. Simmons) serving as a juror starts to poke around with his own unsanctioned investigation, managing to get himself booted off the jury in the process. Simmons, as always, is a remarkable presence, and it’s unfortunate his role is rather limited.

Quitting may not be a word in Clint Eastwood’s vocabulary, but if “Juror #2” is his last cinematic effort, at least he leaves on a decent note.

In what was a curious strategy, the Warner Bros. studio had a very limited release of “Juror #2” in November, but now it is streaming on HBO’s Max, and it is definitely worth seeing. ★

25-year career including the Athletics, Yankees, Padres, Mets, Red Sox, Dodgers, Angels, Mariners and Blue Jays. He led the American League in steals 12 times and went on to be the all-time record holder with 1,406 thefts, earning him the nickname “Man of Steal.”

“It wasn’t until I saw Rickey that I understood what baseball was about. Rickey Henderson is a run, man,” said Athletics teammate Mitchell Page. “That’s it. When you see Rickey

Henderson, I don’t care when, the score’s already 1-0. If he’s with you, that’s great. If he’s not, you won’t like it.”

His speed wasn’t his only skill. Henderson set all-time records for runs scored (2,295), unintentional walks (2,129) and leadoff home runs (81). The 10-time All-Star won the MVP Award in 1990, leading the

American League in runs scored, stolen bases and on-base percentage. He finished in the top ten in MVP voting five other times.

“He was one of the best players that I ever played with and obviously the best leadoff hitter in baseball,” said Hall of Famer Dave Winfield.

Henderson won two World Series during his career, in 1989 with Oakland and in 1993 with Toronto. He spent most of his career in left field and won a Gold Glove Award in 1981. He finished with a .279 batting average, 3,055 hits and 297 home runs. He electrified crowds with his flair and enthusiasm for the game.

Henderson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2009 on his first appearance on the Baseball Writers’ Association of America ballot.

“If my uniform doesn’t get dirty, I haven’t done anything in the baseball game,” said Henderson. ★

National Baseball Hall of Fame News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Rickey Henderson used the ultimate combination of power and speed to break numerous major league baseball records during his career.

But what solidified his place in baseball history was his love for the game.

Henderson died on Dec. 20, at the age of 65. His enthusiasm for the game manifested itself in 1,406 stolen bases – by far the best total in history.

“Rickey Henderson was not only the greatest base stealer of all-time, but one of the most memorable personalities of his generation,” said Jane Forbes Clark, Chairman of the Board of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. “The

enthusiasm and energy he brought to Cooperstown each year will truly be missed. Our thoughts are with his wife, Pamela, and their family.”

Born on Dec. 25, 1958, in Chicago, Ill., Henderson spent most of his childhood in Oakland, Calif. An All-American running back in high school, Henderson turned down multiple football scholarships to sign with the Oakland Athletics in 1976.

In his first full major league season 1980, Henderson broke Hall of Famer Ty Cobb’s 65-year-old American League stolen base record of 96 with 100 swipes. In 1982, he stole 130 bases, breaking Hall of Famer Lou Brock’s modern era major league single-season record of 118.

“He’s the greatest leadoff hitter of all time, and I’m not sure there’s a close second,” said Billy Beane, senior advisor to the Athletics and the team’s former long-time general manager.

He played for nine teams over his



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The Bulldogs Shine in Colusa Tournament

By Dillon Longmire

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley Bulldogs boys basketball team played and performed well in the Georgia Racznik tournament in Colusa. The tournament started on Thursday, Dec. 19 and ended on Saturday, Dec. 21.

In addition to the Gridley Bulldogs, the annual tournament consisted of the Colusa Redhawks, Williams Yellowjackets, Sutter Huskies, Clear Lake Cardinals, Willows Honkers, Pierce Bears and the Corning Cardinals. The tournament was played throughout three days with each team playing two games in two days

(Thursday and Friday) with the playoff games being on Saturday.

The Bulldogs started the tournament off playing against the Williams Yellowjackets and after an 8-8 score at the end of the first quarter, the Bulldogs dominated the rest of the game holding the Yellowjackets to nine or less points and scoring 14 or more points in the remaining three quarters. The Bulldogs ultimately won the game 60-33 as senior Luis Murillo shined, putting up 12 points, seven rebounds, and three steals.

On the second day of the tournament, the Bulldogs played the Sutter Huskies and it was a battle down to the last second. The

game went back and forth with the Huskies holding a slim lead (24-21) at halftime. The Bulldogs would outscore the Huskies 11-16 and take the lead in the third quarter setting up a thrilling finish. The Huskies would hold the lead until Luis Murillo hit a game tying shot with five seconds left to force overtime. Overtime would be a battle of defenses as both teams scored under five points. Sutter would hold a one-point lead until Gridley got the ball for their last possession of the game where junior Bikram Kullar hit the game winning shot to send the Bulldogs to the championship game. Kullar finished the game with 21 points, seven

rebounds, and three steals.

The championship game on Saturday, Dec. 21, would be played against the Clear Lake Cardinals and the Bulldogs dominated the game. The Bulldogs started the game with a resounding offensive effort as they scored 22 points and held the Cardinals to 11 in the first quarter. The strong effort from the Bulldogs continued in the second quarter as they scored 17 points and held a strong halftime lead of 39-20. For the rest of the game, the Bulldogs would just have to play strong defense and score just enough to keep the Cardinals out of the game and that's exactly what they did. The Bulldogs

would win the game 58-41 and take home the Georgia Racznik tournament trophy.

Bikram Kullar took home the tournament MVP led strongly by his standout performance against the Huskies. Luis Murillo, and Gus Stogsdill would get all tournament honors.

Sitting with an 8-3 record, the Bulldogs are scheduled to play in one last tournament (Dixon Tournament) before starting their regular season. The Bulldogs are scheduled to take on the Armijo Royals on Dec. 27, after press time.

All stats and results courtesy of the boys varsity Head Coach, Nathan Link. ★

Live Oak Wrestlers Compete at Pierce High Meet

By MPG Staff

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - Live Oak High School wrestlers, along with wrestlers from Esparto, Williams and Winters, traveled to Pierce High School in Arbuckle for a match night on Wednesday, Dec. 18. The meet, held at Pierce High School's Natalie Corona gymnasium, provided an excellent opportunity for the wrestlers to get some valuable mat time early in the 2024-25 wrestling season. ★



Live Oak's Lane Webb squares off against Winters' Cameron Del Rio at a match night in Arbuckle on Dec. 18. Photos by Jennifer Corriea



Live Oak's Lane Webb squares off against Winters' Cameron Del Rio at a match night in Arbuckle on Dec. 18.

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