



Marysville High Student Spreads Holiday Cheer

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TERRITORIAL DISPATCH

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Serving Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Nevada Counties

JANUARY 3, 2025

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Plumas Street 'Hawk Girl' Appreciated

By Shamaya Sutton

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - There's a woman with a falcon on Plumas Street, blowing whistles and shining lasers. No, she isn't crazy, she's part of Yuba City's effort to maintain its most important business district and keep one of the nation's largest crow populations at bay.

"Legally, what we're allowed to do is be a predatory presence especially with a native species like crows," said Jana Barkley, owner of Aero Falconry. "All I'm here to do is be a predatory presence and scare them away. This is called pest bird abatement."

From October to March, an estimated 1.5-million crows come to roost in the warmth of Yuba City's lights and lampposts. Primary locations include the streets and parking lots surrounding the Yuba Sutter Marketplace, and the tree-lined strip of Downtown Plumas Street. During the day, the crows serve a purpose in gleaning the dry, discarded fruits and nuts from local orchard floors. But their nightly routine has quickly become a nuisance for urban residents.

In 1999, some local businesses reported spending between \$300 and \$500 a week cleaning up crow droppings that had piled up a quarter-inch thick. Because these birds are protected in California by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it seemed there was little to be done about the growing problem. Technically, the city could get a permit from the state to hunt or poison the birds during crow season but such a plan was reportedly met with intense public protest in the late 1980s.

This is where Barkley and her taloned friends



Jana Barkley, left, patrols Plumas Street with her hawk, Serenity, working to keep the area clear of pesky crows. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

come into play. Crows aren't too keen on larger falcons and hawks and for good reason, these avians often pick on their smaller counterparts and can wreak havoc on their nests. Using birds of prey to patrol the streets has successfully been shown to deter and disperse unwanted flocks to other parts of the city.

"The city is sensitive to the need for controlling the migratory crow population, particularly in our downtown business district where their presence

creates a nuisance which may result in a negative economic impact," said former Yuba City Councilman and Mayor Shon Harris. "Falconry has proven to be an effective motivator for the birds to relocate their roosting activities. While it doesn't eliminate the animals, it does provide a significant and obvious respite from the noise and other evidence of their presence. The city has a great relationship with Jana Barkley and Aero Falconry and we

are pleased to report positive results."

On Nov. 27, Barkley started one of her nightly patrols off Teegarden Avenue in Yuba City. Her partner for the evening was Serenity, a Harris Hawk and experienced hunter who she helped rehabilitate. Serenity seemed quite eager to stretch her wings and diligently soared to and from Barkley's forearm and the neighboring rooftops to collect bite-sized treats of quail meat.

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Bob Harlan Retires from United Way

Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way announced the retirement of Bob Harlan, who has served with distinction as executive director for 11 years, effective Dec. 31. Under his visionary leadership, United Way has strengthened its role as a cornerstone of community support for tens of thousands of underserved families in the region.

"The generosity and dedication of our community, through financial support, volunteer hours, and partnerships, has transformed countless lives," Harlan said. "This success embodies our belief that we are truly 'Better Together.'"

Harlan came to the community in March 1982 as general manager and shortly after, owner of KUBA 1600 Radio and Cool 104 FM.

During his nearly 30 years at the radio stations, Harlan provided an in-depth community operation that was a local leader in providing news and information. That includes so many memorable stories, including the in-depth wall to wall coverage of the floods of 1986 and 1997.

Harlan's commitment to community service will continue with his dedicated service as a volunteer at Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way.

The Board of Directors has appointed current Board President Sarah Kotko as acting executive director to ensure continuity of leadership.

"United Way's commitment to serving our community has never been stronger," said Kotko. "We're ready to build on Bob's incredible work and continue growing our partnerships and creating meaningful impact throughout Yuba, Sutter and Colusa Counties."

As part of this transition, the organization will relocate to 1510 Poole Blvd., Suite 204 in Yuba City on Jan 21. This move positions United Way to better serve its mission while maintaining operational efficiency.

For more information, contact Kotko at president@yscunitedway.org or Terry Raley, executive assistant, at terry@yscunitedway.org.

Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way has served the Yuba, Sutter and Colusa communities since 1969. Its mission is to strengthen the community through effective partnerships and its vision is to be the leader in aligning community needs with resources and compassionate giving. To learn more, visit online at www.yscunitedway.org.

Meals on Wheels Yuba & Sutter Counties News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Yuba River Endowment donated \$25,000 to Meals on Wheels Yuba & Sutter Counties to help bridge funding gaps and provide meals for some of Yuba County's most vulnerable older adults.

Meals on Wheels Yuba & Sutter Counties delivers five nutritionally balanced meals per week to 120 homebound residents in Yuba County. Meals are prepared in partnership with local restaurants, including Pete's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 2 Bits Café and Las Brasas Mexican Restaurant, under the guidance of a registered dietitian. Volunteers delivering meals also provide welfare checks, social

interaction and resource referrals.

"A knock at the door might not seem like much," said Meals on Wheels Yuba & Sutter Counties program manager Teja Payne. "But for a homebound senior, it could be the only person they'll interact with all day. Meals on Wheels brings nourishment and connection to our aging neighbors."

Meals on Wheels Yuba & Sutter Counties has seen a surge in demand, with 61 new clients added during the pandemic. With the end of COVID relief funds, this donation from the Yuba River Endowment will further support the program as new resources are secured.

"Beyond our current clients, we have 75 older adults on a waitlist," Payne added.

"The endowment has supported

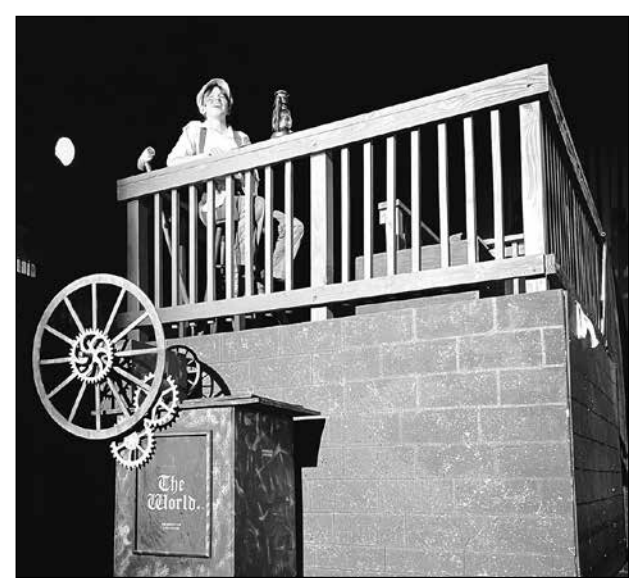
local food banks and pantries for years but we were unaware of this critical need," said Yuba River Endowment Board Member Mike Filice. "We're honored to help Teja and her volunteers make a difference in the lives of these seniors."

Founded in 2019, the Yuba River Endowment is a nonprofit organization created by Yuba County farmers who occasionally transfer surplus water to drought-stricken areas, using the proceeds to support local causes. To date, the Yuba River Endowment has donated more than \$1 million to initiatives, such as ag education, food security and scholarships.

To learn more about Meals on Wheels or to donate, visit www.yubasuttermow.org/donate or call 530-670-0033 or yubasuttermow@agencyonaging4.org.

2024 Theater in Review

Recognizing Yuba-Sutter's Brightest Stars



Kelsey Watkins sings “Letter from the Refuge” during a showing of *Newsies* at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts in Yuba City. Photo by Shamaya Sutton



James Ferreira, center, performs as Charlie Martin in “On Golden Pond,” a show he directed at the The Acting Company in Yuba City. Photo by Shamaya Sutton



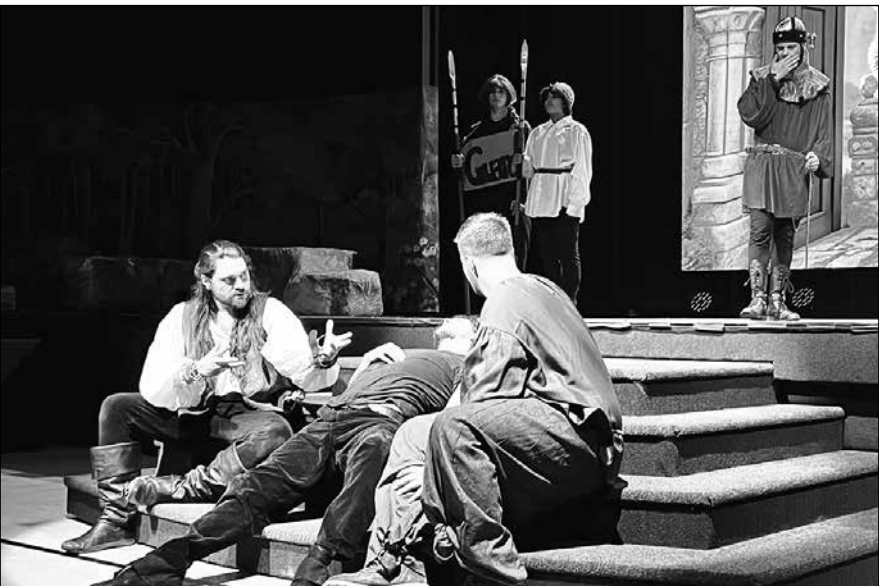
Maysann Phelps, right, portrays princess Anna in a production of *Frozen Jr.* at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts in Yuba City. Photo by Shamaya Sutton



Actors Eloisa Lopez, right, and Christian de la Torre, left, perform the final scene of *The Glass Menagerie* by candlelight at Yuba College Theater. Courtesy of Yuba College Theater



The poster design for *Jekyll & Hyde* starring Cassie Fifield, left, Ben Fifield, center, and Mariah Larios shot and designed by Talia Baxter. Courtesy photo Convergence Theater Company



Johnny Daugherty, left, played the role of Enigo Montoya in Creative Thinkers inaugural production of *The Princess Bride* hosted at Glad Tidings church in Yuba City. Photo by Shamaya Sutton



A year's worth of programs from the Yuba-Sutter regions community theater productions. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

By Shamaya Sutton

YUBA-SUTTER, CA (MPG) – It’s been a whirlwind of a year for me but I still managed to grab the bull by the horns so to speak in terms of keeping up with the local performing arts world. In fact, I didn’t miss a single community based show (high schools and middle schools excluded). The productions included in my “judgings” came from The Acting Company, Convergence Theater Company, Yuba College Theater, Center Stage Productions, Creative Light Theater, and a new up and coming group called Creative Thinkers. All combined, there were a total of 14 shows to catch this year from the above groups, but only 12 were eligible for this write as I personally participated in The Acting Company’s production of “The Dining Room,” and helped direct “Finding Nemo Jr.” for Rise Up Yuba-Sutter.

Out of these 12 I tried to find the ones that stuck out the most, leaving a lasting impression on both myself and the audience. I also try to recognize those “rising stars” in our community and those that go above and beyond in their love for the arts. So without further ado, let’s get down to the 2024 Theater in Review: Recognizing Yuba-Sutter’s Brightest Stars.

Best Musical: “Newsies”
by Center Stage Productions
Typically I would section a youth production off into its own category however I felt that “Newsies” raised the bar too high not to be included alongside its adult counterparts. It’s always hard to decide on a “best,” but when I close my eyes and think back on the incredible theatrical year our community has had, one scene in particular flashes before me - a chain of leaping, twirling newsies delivering mail and belting in Broadway fashion. From

the dancing to the set design, acting and technical delivery, “Newsies” brought it all and then some. A true stand out from this production included Kelsey Watkins who played the role of Crutchie. Something about the way she delivered the song “Letter from the Refuge” charmed the crowd so entirely, it was one of those rare moments where you sit and think “now I can say I knew them when.”

This was the first time Center Stage decided to split their talent into two casts, one of which consisted primarily of teens (*Newsies*) and a younger production (*Frozen Jr.*) which was directed in part by some of the older cast members. *Frozen Jr.* also had astounding success and I hope to see Center Stage continue in its expanding curriculum.

Rising Star (Junior):
Maysann Phelps

Speaking of *Frozen*, this junior production stood out for some of the best cast character actors I’ve seen in years. Specifically I’d like to recognize Oscar Landis as Kristoff and Julia Swarm as Olaf who both completely nailed the voice and energy of their characters. Aside from all the cuteness, Maysann Phelps peaked my attention with some of her bold acting choices. She tended to shy away from the more cliché Disney interpretations of Princess Anna and instead brought an authentic teenage angst to the role. There were two moments where she used a shrill yet contained scream that grounded the character’s frustration and justified her apparent immaturity having gone through adolescence without parents. On top of that her singing voice turned more than a few heads putting her at the top of my 2024 “rising stars” list.

Best Play: The Glass Menagerie
Ok I’ll admit, I’m a sucker for

Tennessee Williams, but I know a good show when I see one and this production had all the elements. JP Stottmann nailed the abstract yet intimately inviting stage design and director James Gilbreath put together an extraordinary cast. It’s been my pleasure to watch many of these actors grow over the years but this production pushed some of them leaps and bounds beyond what I thought possible. I was on the fence with this one for a bit but the final 20 minutes or so won me over. Performed by candlelight only, we felt Williams’ intense romantic nostalgia as well as his deep regret and longing for the sister and family he lost. “Blow out your candles Laura,” one of the final lines of the play, actress Eloisa Lopez blew out the candles and the stage went black with nothing more than the lingering smell of smoke. This subtle sequence cemented itself into the memories of attendees, beckoning the true meaning of a memory play.

Best Actor/ Actress:
Ben and Cassie Fifield

There’s an obvious choice for this category and it has to go to a theatrical family that has had a nonstop year. Cassandra Fifield starred as Mrs. Peacock in “Clue” and Lucy Harris in “Jekyll & Hyde.” She was also the musical director for both those productions as well as “*Frozen Jr.*” Likewise, Ben Fifield portrayed the sheriff in “Salt of the Earth” and starred as Mr. Boddy in “Clue” and Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde in “Jekyll & Hyde.” Meanwhile their son, Ethan Fifield, made his debut leading role as Jack Kelly in “Newsies.” He also provided custom drawings for the show’s projection design and was credited with costuming “Salt of the Earth.”

Essentially, this meant that the Fifields spent their year living between theaters, volunteering

their talents to the local community. All three have undeniable stage presence and quality vocals to back it up. Without a doubt, the Fifields are the Yuba-Sutter regions “it” family of the year when it comes to the performing arts and we can’t wait to see what they do next.

Best Director: James Ferreira

James Ferreira, a former president of The Acting Company, returned to directing this past year with a production of “On Golden Pond.” Previously, his acting capabilities won recognitions from the Sacramento Area Regional Theater Alliance (SARTA), and his directorial abilities seem to be on par. Watching “On Golden Pond” was reminiscent of watching a live recording of a sitcom. Keeping that type of energy and comedic pace is no small feat, it takes strong vision and a well-crafted cast of actors. This is where the production really sparkled. Pat Hill and Neil Thorson starred as Ethel and Norman Thayer, bringing a rare sense of authenticity and charm to their roles. Lauren Coats and Matt Coats complimented their contributions as Chelsea Thayer Wayne and Billy Ray Sr., and Roger Warner rounded out the production with a vibrant youthful presence as Billy Ray Jr. Ferreira himself took on the comedic role of Charlie Martin. The set was also well thought out, adding depth and cohesiveness to the production. Its trick door made me believe there had truly been an onset stage malfunction!

They say that the best directed shows don’t make you think about the direction at all, you simply sit back and enjoy the story. And that’s exactly what Ferreira accomplished in “On Golden Pond.”

Best Design / Marketing:
Talia Baxter
Pictures say a thousand words,

without them we may never be able to choose what we’d like to eat off any given menu. And I think good pictures are equally important when it comes to theatrical marketing. Once again Talia Baxter, a local photographer, showed out with her incredible skill for crafting quality production shots. The shows I’m referring to are “Clue” and “Jekyll & Hyde.” The photos used in “Clue” for each character’s onstage portrait looked like they came straight out of a modernized stage board. I believe there were player cards made with these as well adding new “collectables” for local theater enthusiasts. The entire production of “Clue” was visually stimulating from start to finish, a nod to directors Corinna Hayes and Tanda Phelps. Meanwhile *Jekyll & Hyde*’s production poster looked professional enough to be engraved in part onto glass, which it was! These souvenir glasses were only available during the productions run at the Sutter Theater’s interior bar.

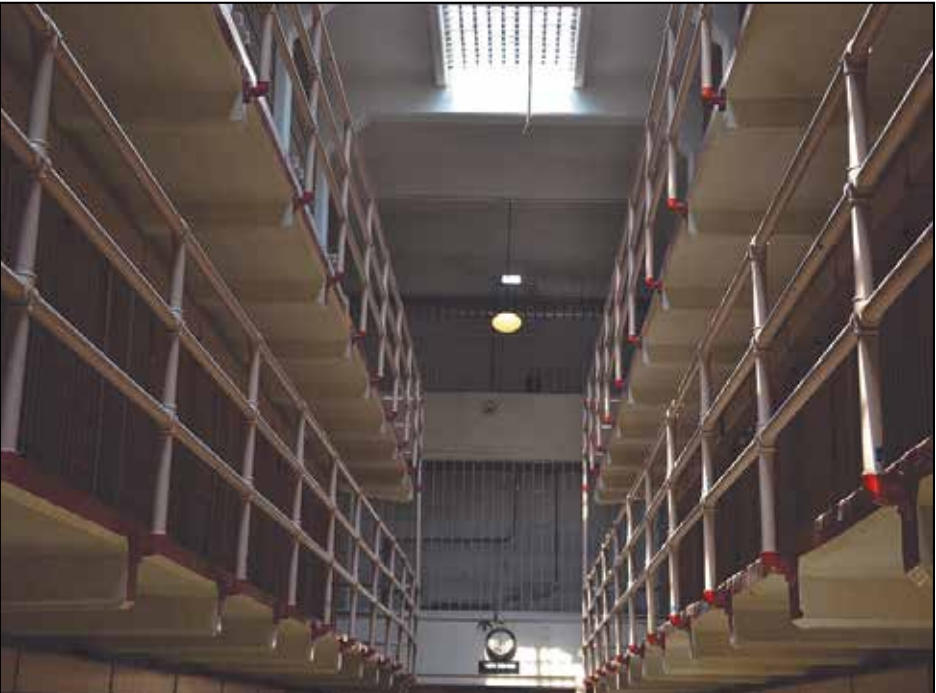
Contributions such as these are what helps put butts in seats and cannot be easily overlooked.

Rising Star: Johnny Daugherty

“The Princess Bride” was Creative Thinkers inaugural production, hosted at Glad Tidings church in Yuba City. Johnny Daugherty played the role of Enigo Montoya, and if I didn’t know better I would have sworn he was lip syncing his lines to the voice of originating actor Mandy Patinkin.

Daugherty was a joy to watch especially during his impressive fencing scenes. The stage combat really shown in this production and rumor has it we might be seeing some similar antics in the spring of 2025 with an interpretation of Robin Hood. ★

Stiffened Penalties for Theft



Prop 36, approved by California voters in November, includes heavier consequences for petty theft and shoplifting offenses. Photo courtesy of Pixaby

By Cayla Mihalovich,CalMatters.org

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Californians accused of certain drug and retail theft crimes may already be facing stiffer penalties under an initiative voters passed this year, alongside related bills Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law.

Voters this November overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36, which both modifies and adds key changes to California law.

That includes prosecutors being able to charge people convicted of various third-time drug offenses with a so-called treatment-mandated felony, which would direct them to substance use disorder or mental health treatment in lieu of up to three years in jail or prison.

Under the new law, courts are also obligated to warn people convicted of selling or providing certain drugs, such as fentanyl, that they could face murder charges for later distributing illegal drugs that kill someone.

And heavier consequences may also extend to petty theft and shoplifting offenses, including the possibility of up to three years in jail or prison if a person has already been twice convicted for certain theft offenses.

Several district attorneys and police departments announced arrests this month that they planned to charge under the new law, including in San Francisco, Solano and Shasta counties.

The measure partially reversed a different initiative voters approved a decade ago, which reduced penalties for certain lower-level drug and petty theft offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. The initiative, Proposition 47, was intended to develop new public safety strategies and reduce incarceration after the state’s prison population exploded due to tough-on-crime policies dating back to the 1980s.

But prosecutors, law enforcement and large retailers who rallied in favor of Prop. 36 said those sentencing reforms went too far and created a revolving door for people to repeatedly commit crimes without being held accountable.

“It’s a clear mandate from the public that we need to take a new approach on public safety issues, specifically hard

drugs, retail theft and fentanyl,” said Jeff Reisig, Yolo County District Attorney.

Those who opposed the measure warned that it will worsen homelessness, drug use and crime by cutting funding for treatment programs and increasing court and prison costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Behavioral health experts across the state have voiced concern over the efficacy of a treatment-mandated felony, given that most California counties lack the resources needed to provide ‘mass treatment’ that has been promised by the measure’s proponents.

“I believe that (proponents) have also received a mandate to embrace problem solving and supportive services for people who are struggling,” said Cristine Soto DeBerry, executive director of the Prosecutors Alliance of California, a non-profit organization that opposed Prop. 36.

“I don’t believe the mandate was (to) put more people in prison. It was not what people believed they were voting for. I hope that people with the discretion to enforce this law will think very carefully about the communities they serve and what they were asking for in this moment,” she said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom tried to keep Prop. 36 off of the fall ballot and for a time considered putting a competing crime measure before voters. Instead, he signed a package of 10 bills in August that will make it easier to prosecute retail and vehicle theft. Those laws go into effect on Jan. 1.

Although Gov. Newsom didn’t put any money into fighting Prop. 36, he referred to the initiative as an “unfunded mandate” that will take California back to the war on drugs. Indeed, the measure included no new funding streams. But supporters like Reisig voiced optimism that funding opportunities already exist in the law, pointing to a \$6.4 billion from the mental health bond voters approved in March.

“I hope that lawmakers and the governor embrace the mandate and work collaboratively to make sure that we’re successful in delivering the promise of Prop. 36,” Reisig said. ★

Marysville High Student Spreads Her Holiday Cheer



Marysville High School senior, Brittany Davis displays hand crated holiday cards created for patients hospitalized at Adventist Health and Rideout. Photo courtesy of Adventist Health

Adventist Health News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The holiday season is often marked by intricately strung Christmas lights, gingerbread houses and festive songs on the radio. For one Marysville High School student, the winter celebrations served as a unique opportunity to spread a special kind of cheer.

Brittany Davis, a senior at Marysville High, recently delivered a bundle of hand-crafted cards, pictures and letters created to bring joy to patients hospitalized at Adventist Health and Rideout. The project was not born from a required school assignment, but rather a genuine desire to extend goodwill to those who needed it most during the holidays.

“I’ve been in the hospital a lot, personally and with family members,” Davis said. “I’ve seen a lot of patients and people that were alone. I felt like, since it is the holiday season, that I want to be that person that says ‘Hey, there is someone

out there for you, someone that knows you’re there.’”

Davis, who aspires to become a nurse, modeled the idea after a similar program her art teacher, Yesenia Cachu, participated in that sent notes to those in need. Davis pitched the idea to Cachu, and then to her fellow art class students. She was met with overwhelming support.

“I always thought that doing these projects would be a lot harder,” Davis said. “But I realized that I just needed to say something. There were a lot of people that were on board with it and wanted to do something.”

Davis said she provided some examples of cards the students could make but gave them creative freedom to make something that would hopefully lift the spirits of patients who may be experiencing stress or loneliness during their time in the hospital over the holidays.

“I just hope that all the patients see them,” Davis said, “and know that someone is there for them.” ★

Holiday Turkey and Ham Drive Meets Goal to Serve Thousands

Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - For the past 18 years, the Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way has teamed up with the local Results Radio stations to collect turkeys, hams and cash to provide 1,600 turkeys and hams for family dinners and for holiday community meals to serve more than 5,000 individuals in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Cash collected is used to purchase hams and turkeys at a discount from local grocery stores.

This year, the campaign collected 393 turkeys and hams and with the \$17,499 collected, purchased an additional 400

turkeys and 496 hams and 100 gift cards to purchase holiday foods for families identified by the Yuba Sutter Salvation Army and the Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down.

Twenty local organizations were given the turkeys and hams to use in holiday meals and gift baskets.

“About 50% of our local households struggle to make ends meet each month and they are so grateful to receive this loving care during the holiday season,” said Bob Harlan of the Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way.

“At United Way, we are frankly astonished at the response we receive each year during the Turkey Drive, the Summer Cash for Food Drive and other requests for assisting our neighbors truly in need,” Harlan said. ★

Plumas Street ‘Hawk Girl’ Appreciated



Serenity, a hawk trained in pest abatement, soars to and from the rooftops of Plumas Street in Yuba City. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

Continued from page 1

“Normally I’d take all her gear off but because we’re flying around traffic and I see people walking their dogs I do have to be careful,” said Barkley.

A mixture of whistles and lasers were used in tandem with Serenity’s flights, training the crows to react accordingly. For some flocks, all it took was a quick flash of the laser for them to redirect course.

“What we’re doing is conditioning the birds, training them to react,” said Barkley. “Some people try to use recordings of hawk cries but it really helps to have the real thing every once in a while to back up the threat.”

During peak season, usually late October, Barkley might walk the entire Plumas Street stretch each evening starting at sunset. Once her presence is established, she can slowly begin tapering off her patrols. No matter what time of year it is though, visitors always seem to have questions. Barkley repeated her introductory spiel at least half a dozen times within the first 30 minutes of her arrival. She doesn't seem to mind educating the public but keeping her bird safe, especially among rowdy bar crowds, is a priority.

“They’re not pets; I always try to keep myself as a buffer between people and the birds,” said Barkley. ★



Healthy Living Hub

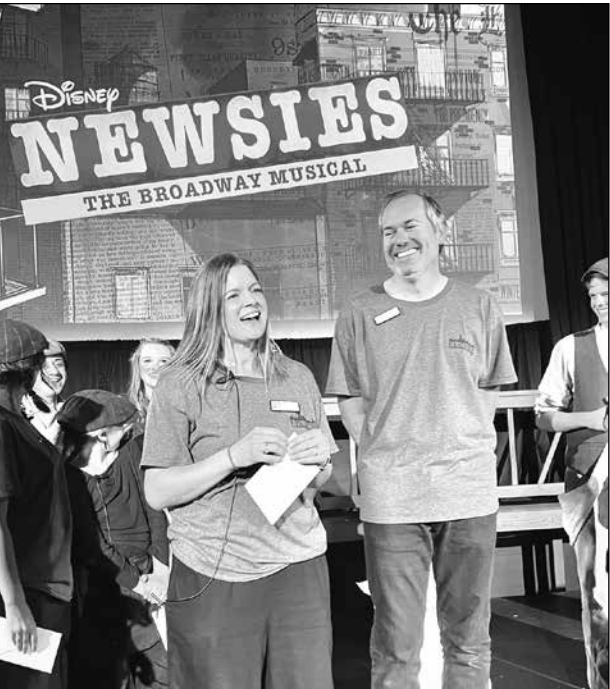
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Youth Choreography Theater Workshop Set



Corey and Morgan Kersting Center Stage Co-Founders. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) -

Center Stage Productions, Yuba-Sutter’s premiere youth performing arts program, has announced its next series of theater workshops and plans for its summer musicals. The next workshop will be all about “Choreography” on Saturday, Jan. 18 for students ages 7 to 12 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and ages 13 to 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will learn how to create a dance including the composition and arrangement of movements to support a scene in a musical production to help move the story forward.

In March, Center Stage will hold an Actor’s Workshop focusing on scenes and monologues suitable for young actors. Age-appropriate instruction will be given so that students can learn how to develop and create a living, breathing character based

on what is in the text, what the character says, and what others say about their character.

The cost for the workshops is \$10 per child and \$5 for additional children from the same family. However, scholarships are readily available so there are no financial barriers to participation. Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture will be hosting the workshops at its Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street in Yuba City. Whether your young person is new to theater or just ready to brush up on some skills, these workshops are designed to help make them better actors.

Auditions for this summer’s musicals, (still to be announced) are coming in April. Following the sold-out performances of “Frozen, Jr.” and “Newsies” by the Center Stage Productions team this past summer, this will be “must-see” theater for theater enthusiasts of all ages.

Center Stage Productions was founded in 2022 in cooperation with Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture to provide a performing arts program and performance experience to all area youth without any barriers to participation. Under the direction of founders, Corey and Morgan Kersting along with other theater professionals, the workshops will teach students from 7 to 17 years of age invaluable skills and provide information and hands-on techniques they can use for any aspect of their work in the theater and that will also help them in everyday life. Most of all, the workshops will be fun!

Register your student online at yubasutterarts.org or, for more information, contact Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture at 530-742-ARTS, or you can email Center Stage Productions directly at centerstageproductions.ys@gmail.com. Plenty of free parking is available on the streets and parking lots adjacent to the theater.

About YSAC: Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide arts programming, education, advocacy, assistance, and service to artists, organizations, and residents of Yuba and Sutter Counties. The local affiliate for Yuba and Sutter of the California Arts Council, its programs include Arts in Education, Veterans Initiatives in the Arts, Arts in Corrections, Very Special Arts Festival, Yuba-Sutter Youth Choir, Center Stage Productions, Convergence Theater Company, the Yuba-Sutter Big Band and many more. ★

Nine Graduate from Leadership Farm Bureau Program



The California Farm Bureau officer team congratulates the 2024 Leadership Farm Bureau Class on their graduation Dec. 9 at the organization’s 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey. From left are First Vice-President Shaun Crook; class members James Moller, Harsimerdip “Harry” Sidhu, Rachel Nettleton, Tanya Brouse; President Shannon Douglass; class members Jackie Kennedy, Danielle Vietti, Sy Honig, Ben Abatti III, Alex Arroyo; and Second Vice- President Ron Peterson. Photo courtesy of California Farm Bureau

California Farm Bureau News Release

MONTEREY, CA (MPG) - An intensive, monthslong training program concluded Dec. 9 for nine Farm Bureau members from California who participated in the Leadership Farm Bureau program. The Leadership Farm Bureau Class of 2024 graduated during the 106th California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Monterey.

The class learned about communication, team building, advocacy and the Farm Bureau organization during 10 months of instruction. Class members participated in training on governmental policy, personal development and key issues affecting California farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses. They also advocated on behalf of Farm Bureau with lawmakers in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

“The members we grow today through Leadership Farm Bureau are the future leaders of this organization, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in their counties and for California Farm Bureau,” said Ryan Amaral, who manages the leadership program.

Graduates of the 2024 Leadership Farm Bureau class are listed below.

Ben Abatti III of Imperial County is a third-generation farmer who grows alfalfa, sugar beets, wheat and other forage crops in Holtville.

Alex Arroyo of Monterey County is the general manager of King City Transplanting

in the Salinas Valley.

Tanya Brouse of Butte County is a program coordinator for the Butte County Farm Bureau, who also works with the Butte Agriculture Foundation.

Sy Honig of Sutter County is a third-generation farmer who owns Honig Farms and is a pest control adviser.

Jackie Kennedy of Glenn County is the founder of Knaughty Farms Olive Oil and the office manager for a family farm growing olives, rice and walnuts.

James Moller of Shasta County is a seventh-generation cattle rancher and a manager for Driscoll’s Inc., focusing on strawberry nursery production.

Rachel Nettleton of Kern County is the executive director of the Kern County Farm Bureau and a marketing and communications professional.

Harsimerdip “Harry” Sidhu of Sutter County is a vice-president of First Northern Bank in Yuba City, who grew up on his family’s fruit and nut farm.

Danielle Vietti of Tulare County is a vice-president at AgWest Farm Credit in Tulare, who specializes in dairy financing.

The class represented the 24th group to graduate from the Leadership Farm Bureau program since its inception in 2000.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 26,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.8 million Farm Bureau members. ★

The Honey Barn Burns



Shown above and below is the wreckage of a fire at Honey Barn Decor Boutique on Dec. 30. Crews from CRBR Property Damage Services were assessing the site. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

By Shamaya Sutton

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) -

The downtown Marysville community suffered another loss on Dec. 30 with the burning of Honey Barn Decor Boutique.

Honey Barn Decor Boutique owner Melissa Swink broke the news early that day with pictures of the scorched structure and a post to social media that read “2:45 a.m. this morning, I lost something that I created, something that was my dream, a place where you found yourself wanting to be. I am so lost for words and my heart is broken.”

Honey Barn, located on 331 D St., originally opened its doors in October 2022 specializing in renewed and “new to you” furniture and home Decor.

A GoFundMe account was started by the store’s owner with a \$25,000 goal.



As of the morning of Dec. 30, \$1,500 had been raised among donors.

“For the past two and half years I worked everyday to bring home decor, candles, women’s clothing and charm to the community,” Swink wrote. “Now that I’ve been faced with the tragedy of losing my dream, my little store, I want to rebuild,

restore and bring more love back into the town. My love and dedication to the community of bringing a beautiful store and hard work back to Marysville. I want to bring this back but just need help from any of you that can.”

The fire’s possible cause was not known, as of press time. ★

Yuba Water Board Censures Director Seth Fuhrer

Yuba Water Board News Release

YUBA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At a Dec. 23 special meeting of the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors, the board issued a resolution of censure for Director Seth Fuhrer, who was also recently censured by the Yuba County Board of Supervisors for inappropriate workplace conduct. Because Fuhrer is the 3rd District Supervisor for Yuba County, he automatically serves as a Yuba Water Agency board member.

A censure is a public reprimand of an elected official.

At the county’s special board meeting on Dec. 19, the Board of Supervisors received a summary of findings from an independent investigation that followed complaints from county staff and partnering agencies, claiming that Fuhrer engaged in inappropriate workplace conduct related to his duties as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

The county’s independent investigator described several complaints of unwelcome physical conduct, inappropriate verbal comments and unprofessional behavior by Fuhrer while representing the county. The investigator found based on witness statements it was more likely than not the complaints against Fuhrer were true.

To clarify that the inappropriate conduct by Fuhrer that led to the county censure is also not appropriate at Yuba Water, the board of directors followed the county’s lead in adopting a resolution censuring Fuhrer. The board also approved several remedial measures that mirror the measures adopted by the county. They include:

When representing the agency, Fuhrer must treat all people equally with courtesy and impartiality, and that his conduct should protect and enhance the agency’s reputation.

Agency policy prohibits Fuhrer from harassing or retaliating against agency employees.

The Board of Directors censures and

expresses its disapproval regarding Fuhrer’s sustained inappropriate conduct as found in the above-referenced investigation.

Director Fuhrer is not authorized to represent the agency at any event, except where legally required by his official duties commencing immediately through Dec. 31, 2025. This does not apply to attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors or its committees. The Board of Directors chair can grant exceptions to this rule in the chair’s discretion.

Consistent with the board-adopted Board-Staff Interaction Policy, Director Fuhrer must direct all communications about agency business to the general manager or the general counsel as appropriate and not to other agency staff members.

Fuhrer must comply with the agency’s mandatory sexual harassment-prevention training policies.

Agency staff shall prepare a draft Code of Conduct for agency directors and to present the draft to the Board of Directors for consideration at a future meeting.

The general manager is authorized to take all necessary or appropriate measures to ensure that all agency employees are free from harassment and retaliation as required by the law and agency policy.

“I am hopeful that with this action today, we can begin to put all of this behind us,” said Jon Messick, chair of the Yuba Water board. “We take complaints of this nature seriously and we want to ensure our employees feel comfortable in their work environments and know that they can report complaints without fear of retaliation. Our words matter, and I think this reminds us all that we need to represent Yuba Water in the best manner possible, to our employees, to the public and to our constituents that have trusted us to shine a positive light on the agency and the county.”

The vote was 6-1, with director Fuhrer voting no. ★

Tax Loopholes Cost California and its Cities \$107 Billion but Get Little Scrutiny



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Among the hundreds of bills introduced in every session of the California Legislature, a few deal with what state officials term “tax expenditures,” which requires some explanation.

The term refers to provisions in personal and corporate income taxes and sales taxes that exempt specific financial transactions from levies that otherwise would be applied. They have exactly the same fiscal effect as direct appropriations in the budget, which is why they are dubbed “expenditures.”

While many loopholes reflect a broad public and political consensus that they serve positive purposes — such as making prescriptions drugs and most grocery store foods tax-free — others provide subsidies to special interests with political clout.

My personal favorite among the latter was enacted about 35 years ago at the behest of Silicon Valley interests. It exempted custom computer programs from sales taxes, generally benefiting corporations willing to pay millions of dollars for such software, while continuing to tax off-the-shelf programs such as Quicken or TurboTax purchased by ordinary consumers.

It’s certainly not California’s largest tax loophole, costing state and local

governments \$119 million a year in lost revenue, but it exemplifies the narrow focus of many exemptions.

The software loophole estimate comes from an annual report issued by the state Department of Finance that gets scant public, media and political attention even though, as this year’s version confirms, the accumulated effect on state and local government revenues is \$107 billion, counting only exemptions of \$5 million or more.

“The result: California’s \$204 billion of estimated General Fund revenues (excluding transfers) in 2024-25 would be roughly 45% greater if there were no personal income, sales and use, or corporate income tax expenditures in state law,” Jason Sisney, a fiscal consultant for the Legislature, says in an analysis of the data.

Over time, the number and size of tax expenditures has tended to increase because they often enjoy political support from their beneficiaries, while there’s little or no pressure on governors or legislators to reduce or eliminate those with little or no rational basis, such as the custom software exemption.

The legislation creating it was carried by a Silicon Valley legislator, now deceased, known for his lamentations about the state’s parsimonious attitudes toward vital education, health and social services.

What happened a couple of decades ago in the state Board of Equalization, which was then the collector of sales taxes, is another illustration. State law taxes hot prepared foods, such as those served in restaurants, or offered by delis, but exempts cold prepared foods — for reasons

lost in antiquity.

The owner of a theater chain asked the board to exempt popcorn from the hot food tax, arguing that while it may be warm when purchased, it’s cold by the time theater patrons return to their seats. The board granted the exemption.

The new report lists the income tax exemptions for employer-provided medical care and pension contributions, totaling \$29 billion in reduced revenues, as California’s two largest tax expenditures. Other personal income tax biggies are exemption of some Social Security benefits (\$5.5 billion) and capital gains on inherited properties (\$5 billion).

The largest corporate income tax provision, valued at \$3.1 billion, limits taxation on the revenues of multinational corporations, an issue that has kicked around the Capitol for at least 50 years with several iterations.

Among the newer items on the list are income and sales tax credits for motion picture and video production (\$213 million) and a sales tax exemption for menstrual products (\$28 million) and children’s diapers (\$81 million).

Each year, the governor and the Legislature spend months negotiating thousands of items in the state budget. With \$107 billion at stake, perhaps they should spend some of that time reviewing off-budget tax expenditures.

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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Visit his website at www.moneymanagementradio.com

Online Versus in Person Shopping

I have penned a few Money Matters articles on those big box stores and the little mom and pop local stores we all like to support and how they coexist with each other.

The first article centered on the idea the big box stores like Costco, Walmart, Home Depot and Lowes were killing the small local stores in neighborhoods around the country. The reasons were lower overhead cost per sale, better selection, ease of access (the one stop shopping experience), of course, price.

The subsequent article a few years later turned the tide on the big box stores with the subject being that the box stores themselves were now dealing with their own threat of existence because of the online retailers like Amazon.

Some big box stores were slow to react while others like Walmart, Target, and others took a quick lesson from Amazon and started their own online services.

The big box stores did have an advantage over Amazon. Buyers could actually view the item at the store. When shopping online, this was not possible.

Amazon countered that issue by implementing a no-questions asked, super easy return policy.

When CoVid arrived and the governments of the world decided to implement shutdowns of just about everything, this further exasperated the plight of the in-person shopping experience and put even more pressure on local establishments. As the shopping environment has progressed, the mom and pop stores, those that survived that is, did have a leg to stand on, albeit a wobbly one.

We discovered that people care about their local stores and many didn’t mind paying a few pennies extra for the local experience. Many mom and pops met their shoppers half way with price concessions making sure the “few extra pennies” didn’t turn into “many extra dollars” as people still have to watch their budgets. The severe inflationary pressures of the last few years obviously hasn’t help local stores to keep the doors open but they are a stubborn bunch as well as many of their local supporters are fortunately a compassionate bunch.

That being as it may, some local vendors resist dropping prices and rely on the local shopping experience as something no online retailer or big box store can compete with.

For some store owners however, how to compete with the large corporate outlets still eludes them.

I used to shop at a small store in my local township Nevada City that was tucked away in a quaint hallway like

shopping area in an historic old building.

The area also contained a Persian Rug outlet, a gourmet chocolatier as well as a few other specialty shops. The historic building environment and the tucked away shops offered a somewhat magical experience. I frequented a small gift boutique there during birthdays, Valentine’s Day, and Christmas. The store was very small, had a very limited selection and the prices were high, but I liked the owner, wanted to support the shop and was always warmly welcomed.

After shopping there three or four times a year for more than a decade, I bought my wife a blouse and when her birthday arrived, the wife tried it on. Me, being a clueless husband when it came to sizing, had of course bought the wrong size. I should have known better than to try and buy clothes for the opposite sex but I felt brave that day so what the heck.

In any case, the blouse didn’t fit so I went back to my little boutique and asked if the owner had a larger size. The owner said no and when I asked for a refund, she said the store policy was credit only. Yea, I know this is the policy of many a store but seeing as I went out of my way to shop there and support her, a I was a little perturbed that she refused to refund my money and stuck to the credit only offer.

Seeing nothing else I liked, I gently reminded her that I would of course be back but would prefer the refund.

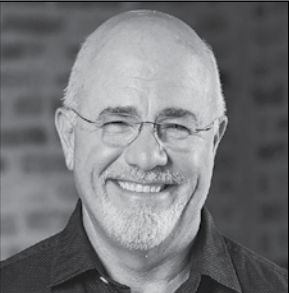
She stuck to her guns so I thanked her and left the store. I never returned.

In conclusion, our local shops are a great place to engage with our neighbors, enjoy a pleasant day of shopping and walking the town and support our small town purveyors.

But there is a give and take that should be considered by the small shop owner. Don’t act like a big box or mega store with stringent policies that can’t be bent because you’re too focused on the almighty buck. We shop there because we’re neighbors, so treat us as such.

“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 ★



Dear Dave,

Do you have any advice for sticking with your goals and New Year’s resolutions? I always have great things in mind to shoot for in December, but then they always seem to fall by the wayside before spring.

– Rae

Dear Ra,

Believe it or not, setting goals and making them happen is easier than most people think. You just need to keep a few guidelines in mind at the beginning of the process.

The first guideline is to be specific. What do you want to achieve? And be super specific when you answer that question. Things like “eat healthier” or “read more” are too vague. Instead, try something like “cut eating out to twice a week” or “read for at least 30 minutes every night before bed.” Also, look out for any roadblocks that could keep you from reaching your goal, and make a plan to knock them out of the way.

Number two, make your goals measurable. A goal

Dave Ramsey Says Your Goals Means Planning Your Goals

like “lose weight” has no target attached to it. But “lose 20 pounds” has a clear finish line. You can also break your goal setting into bite-size chunks. Give yourself daily, weekly and monthly steps to take. Focus on those, and when you accomplish one, tackle the next.

Three, set a time limit. You need a finish line, so take your goal, create a plan and break it all the way down into daily activities. Then, give yourself a deadline. You might say, “I want to lose 25 pounds by December 31, 2025.” To lose those 25 pounds by your deadline, figure out things like how many times you need to work out each week and how many calories to eat in a day.

Number four, make sure the goals are yours. Trying to achieve someone else’s goals for your life never works. Why? Because working hard is hard work. You won’t have the drive to stick with it if it’s something you aren’t not passionate about.

Finally, set your goals down in writing. Something special happens when you write down specific

goals. Seeing them plainly in front of you hammers it home in a way nothing else will. There’s a reason God said, “Write the vision, and make it plain,” in Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV). Get those goals down on paper, along with all the steps it’ll take to make them happen.

And hey, don’t beat yourself up if you get a little off track, Rae. Keep your chin up and your eyes on the prize. As long as you stay focused on the end goal and keep taking steps—even small ones in the right direction—you’ll eventually turn those goals into reality!

– 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. ★

A Christmas to Remember



By Kathy Craig Harteis

It’s not likely I’ll forget Christmas 2024. It’s the first Christmas Eve my kids and I have not been together. There will be another day to celebrate. No Worry. It’s been nearly a week in the hospital, have had surgery on my ankle and next I’ll go to rehab facility for a lengthy stay. It looks like I’ll live at the skilled nursing facility for a few weeks. I first started writing a column more than 20 years ago when David, my late husband, started his final journey. Erv and Donnavée at Eido Connect asked me

if I would be comfortable writing about what we were going through. As it has turned out it has been a strength and encouragement for me. I hope I have helped a few folks along the way. You’d think I’d be depressed. Not so. I’ve been praying for some time for clear knowledge of what I’m supposed to do. In the hospital I’ve met so many people who seemed to need conversation with me. I’m not pleased with crashing on the ice but sometimes it takes a bit to get our attention. I can’t go home because I can’t manage steps into house etc. Plus I have to have therapy every day. I’ve had a lot of pain since the pain block from surgery wore off but I have good drugs and wonderful staff to help me. I’ve had encounters with some wonderful people. I’ve met a lot of people who seem to need my visit. One young male

nurse even comes to see me now even if I’m not on his shift. Guess I collected another kid here. I’ve felt the prayers of many and received good wishes and messages from so many people. The ladies that daughter Tiffany hikes with in Theodore Roosevelt National Park brought flowers. Thank you Nora, Brenda and Carol. I got up yesterday and practiced with a walker. Sat in a chair for a couple of hours. I’m more convinced everyday I’m here for a reason. Let go and let God! Life is good today.

A native of Grimes, CA, Kathy Craig Harteis is a former local journalist and former owner and chief executive of Kathy Craig Media Consulting, in Colusa. She currently lives in Beach, North Dakota, where she lived for many years while raising her family. ★

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Half of half-and-half
6. *Gratuity
9. Remain unsettled
13. Pita, alt. sp.
14. Uncle Sam wants whom?
15. Played violin, e.g.
16. "Encore!"
17. Young canine
18. Amber warning
19. *Entice
21. *Agreement
23. "____ Te Ching"
24. Goose egg
25. Antonym of keep
28. *Affection
30. Open wine, e.g.
35. Frosts a cake
37. Leave in a bucket
39. *Parlor
40. Coating of aurum
41. Like many bathroom floors?
43. Border pass
44. Full of emotion (2 words)
46. Opposite of talker?
47. Tel _____, Israel
48. Auto _____ website
50. *Module
52. Compass point between NE and E
53. *Insane
55. Old-fashioned before
57. *Prevent
60. *Ditch
63. Peninsula of 38th parallel fame
64. Single-_____ plastics
66. Donkey + horse, pl.
68. All told (2 words)
69. '80s band "____ At Work"
70. Bay window
71. Chapter 11 issue
72. Mouse turf
73. Email option

DOWN
1. Tax pro, acr.
2. Capital of Latvia
3. Bibliographical abbr.
4. Not upright
5. Instructions handbook
6. Use an Underwood
7. Promissory note letters
8. Cocoon dwellers
9. Horse and mallet sport
10. *Pitcher
11. One ridiculed for studiousness
12. Banned insecticide, acr.
15. Kevin _____ and Sir Francis
20. Resting spot for a chicken
22. French vineyard
24. *Avid
25. *Correct
26. *Slipperier
27. 4th letter of Greek alphabet
29. *Nothingness
31. Spanish sparkling wine
32. Martini garnish
33. Violinist's pine resin
34. *Rogue
36. Wall support
38. It often precedes "eye"
42. Laundry room appliance
45. Correspondence friend
49. Feel remorse
51. Seismic shake
54. Card game move
56. Accustom
57. *Sharpen
58. A in UAE

59. Cheesy patty
60. Be inclined
61. Paper holder
62. Dog command
63. Baby goat
65. Pirate's turf
67. "Rocky" creator

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Death Notices

HOFFART – Arnold Hoffart, 74, of Yuba City, passed away December 22, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000. A viewing will be Monday, Jan 6, 4-6 pm at Holycross. There will be a celebration of life Sat, jan. 11 at 1 pm at Adventure Church in Yuba City.

LLAMAS – Enrique Llamas, 63, of Gridley, passed away December 23, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

WEBB – Donna Webb, 77, of Yuba City, passed away December 25, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

STIFLE – Pastor Chuck Stifle, 84, of Live Oak, passed away December 27, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.



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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



It's raining in Sactown and it's not a welcome rain. Fans, a derivate of fanatic, are having their true fervor tested.

Seen as a team with 50 wins plus potential, the Kings entered the 2024/2025 season by losing every game in the preseason. What was even more surprising to many fans was coach Brown's seemingly inability to assess the talent on his roster.

Brown's substitution patterns reminded me of a middle school team whose coach was bent on equal playing time for every player.

The preseason had no chance of finding anything resembling a rotation that made any semblance of sense. Every game saw different bench players with significant court time, leading to inconsistency and a style of substitution that can only be described as frenetic.

The only thing consistent in the preseason was the Kings losing, and regrettably this habit carried into the regular season, as the Kings dropped the first three games of the regular season. Sadly, this team with high expectations had yet to find anything resembling a consistent rotation of players coming off the bench. As a result, bench players found themselves with no court time whatsoever, absent from the court for multiple games in succession, or suddenly, inexplicably breaking into the starting lineup.

This became Mike Brown's brand of 2024/2025 basketball known as experimental substitution. Sadly, this continued for the first third of the season, and with an abysmal record of 13-18 Monte McNair and owner Vivek Ranadive decided to give coach Mike Brown the rest of the season off. Coach Brown's tenure was punctuated by an atrocious 5-game stretch that saw the Kings lose every game, culminating in a purely give-away game against the Detroit Pistons.

Pundits and fans will likely argue the merits of replacing a coach that is just 1 ½ years removed from leading the Kings to their first playoff appearance in 16 years, albeit claiming the title of coach of the year in the process.

The truth is that too many players no longer knew their role, and players like Alex Len didn't know if they'd see significant playing time or spend three games on the bench with no court appearance whatsoever. The problem with this style of coaching is the reflection it invariably has on a player's

confidence, and a player without confidence is doomed to failure.

From this writer's perspective, the real issue this season has been a carryover from last year, and that is the inability to accurately assess the talent on this team as it is assembled today.

Case in point is the outright blunder in trading Davion Mitchel and Sasha Vezenkov, along with a 2nd round draft pick to the Toronto Raptors for Jalen McDaniels.

Mitchell wasn't just a Sacramento fan favorite; he was highly popular in the locker room and had a reputation for playing defense like a whirling dervish. Davion had too many intangibles to note, and his absence from this lineup has been sorely missed.

Davion has started several games for the Raptors this season, averaging 9.1 points, 6.3 assists, 2.8 rebounds, and 1.1 steals, while averaging 31 minutes per game. As for the player we traded for, Jalen McDaniels never even saw the regular season, being sent unceremoniously to the San Antonio Spurs before the 2024/2025 campaign ever started.


With the departure of Mike Brown, the Kings have entrusted our Sactown ballers to assistant coach Doug Christie. Coaching from the perspective of a former player will undoubtedly be different, and I'm sure every fan is wishing Doug much success in his new role.

First and foremost, I will be looking for the basics, and that is making sure every player clearly understands his role. Consistency in who replaces Domantas Sabonis every game when he takes a break, and a tighter handle on depth of the bench. It wasn't uncommon for Brown to go as far as 12 deep, and that simply has to change. I see Kevin Huerter, Alex Len, Keon Ellis, and Trey Lyles as the go-to guys off the bench and the rotation needs to have consistency. Time for experiments to stop, and confidence building to begin.

Whatever you do, don't quit on this team Kings fans. 2025 is a new year full of new beginnings.

Happy New Year and all the best Kings fans!

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



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PET OF THE WEEK



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Or if you have lost a pet go to www.petfinder.com and look for your lost pet.

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Territorial Dispatch Adjudicated For and By the County of Yuba, Adjudication No. YCSCCVPT 13-0001066–February 05, 2014

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APN: 014-550-002-000 TS No: CA05000387-24-1 To No: 240443583-CA-VOI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED May 24, 2021. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On January 13, 2025 at 09:00 AM, The Fifth Street Entrance, Yuba County Courthouse, 215 Fifth St., Marysville, CA 95901, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on May 28, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021-009856, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Yuba County, California, executed by JOSE MARQUEZ, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RITA JOAN BRENNER
Case NO. PRPB23-00166

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of Rita Joan Brenner.

A **Petition for Probate** has been filed by: Renee R. Kowalik-Moss in the Superior Court of California, County of: Yuba

The Petition requests that that Renee R. Kowalik-Moss be appointed as personal representative 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 personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or 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: January 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. 4 located at Superior Court of California, County of Yuba, 215 5th Street Ste. 200 Marysville, CA 95901.

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 decedent, 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 a person 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.

Attorney for Petitioner: ROBERT A. CLAVEL, ESQ.
CLAVEL LAW, APLC
5857 PINE AVENUE, STE. B
CHINO HILLS, CA 91709
Phone No.: 909-531-4800
PUBLISHED IN THE TERRITORIAL DISPATCH:
December 20, 27, 2024, January 3, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Marysville Mini Storage 528 14th Street, Marysville, CA 95901 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, known as the "California Self Service Storage Facilities Act", Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

This auction will be conducted online at www.bid13.com **Friday January 3rd 2025 at 10:00 AM**, and end on Thursday January 9th at 10:00AM. If there are no bidders, the property will be donated or disposed of accordingly. Property to be sold as follows: household goods, personal items, furniture, etc. belonging to the following:

Name:
Edward K Ivey Jr.
John T Goodson
Josephine A Sauceda

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in CASH only. All purchased items sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. 530-742-6898 (TD) Jan. 3, 2025

Community Events

Next Step Community Breakfast

Second Sunday of the Month at Brownsville Community Center downstairs located at 17103 Ponderosa Way. Complete breakfast includes: Coffee, orange juice & peaches. Choice of eggs, ham or sausage. Choice of pancakes, french toast or biscuits & gravy. Adults \$10, Children under 12 \$5, 3 & under Free.

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of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YUBA
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF:
SUNALINA GRACE DAYTON, PETITIONER(S)
CASE NUMBER: CVPT 24-01676
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

HEARING DATE:
2/3/2025
DEPT: 4
TIME: 9:30 A.M.

Petitioner(s) Sunalina Grace Dayton, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

from: Sunalina Grace Dayton
to: Sunavana Grace Diamond

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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 a 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 to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

A copy of this order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Territorial Dispatch.

DATE: 12/12/2024

Stephen W. Berrier
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
December 20, 2, 2024, January 3, 10, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-304

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Elite Universal Security / API Academy
5548 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
California Security Services, Inc
5548 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
This business is conducted by a Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/Oct./2002.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Monty Duaine Hecker
California, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 16, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Dec. 27, 2024, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-309

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
AU Adventures
11823 Dolan Harding Rd.
Browns Valley, CA 95918
MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 67
Browns Valley, CA 95918
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Wesley J. Appleton5548 P.O. Box 67
Browns Valley, CA 95918
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/20./2024
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Wesley J. Appleton
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 20, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Dec. 27, 2024, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 2025

available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may visit the Internet Website address www.Auction.com or call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA05000387-24-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-294

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Back in Time Arcade
Marysville
819 5th Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Mailing Address:
8675 Bigelow Rd.
Live Oak, CA 95953
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Michael J. Del Rio
819 5th Street
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/05/2024.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Michael J. Del Rio
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 06, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Dec. 20, 27, 2024,
Jan. 3, 10, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HENDRIKA VANVLIET
Case NO. PRPB24-00157

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of Hendrika Vanvliet.

A **Petition for Probate** has been filed by: Bobbi Vanvliet in the Superior Court of California, County of: Yuba

The Petition requests that that Bobbi Vanvliet be appointed as personal representative 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 personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or 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: January 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. 4 located at Superior Court of California, County of Yuba, 215 5th Street Ste. 200 Marysville, CA 95901.

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 decedent, 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 a person 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.

Attorney for Petitioner: Smith and Johnson Law, APC
115 W. Walnut Street, Suite 3
Lodi, CA 95240
Phone No.: 209-333-9292
PUBLISHED IN THE TERRITORIAL DISPATCH:
December 27, 2024, January 3, 10, 2025

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice AA Self Storage located at 1788 Lassen Blvd Yuba City CA 95993 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via **www.storagetreasures.com** on 1/20/2025 at 5:00PM. Chris Aaberg; Juan Munoz; Tracey Maxey; John Haynesworth; Kristalee Blackwell; Roy Hernandez; Kyle Williams; Denise Walker; Edwin Gonzales; Richard Ungaro; Jennifer Elguez; Jose Delgado; James Foreman; Daniel Atkins; Jeff Mahoney; Linda Freeman; Susan McGrath; Shawn Newman; Michael Lambert; Sarah Berrada (2 units); Cathi Nicholson; Esperanza Resendis; Joseph Fernandez; Ellen Lowry; Frank Callender; Elizabeth Watson; Bryan Gonzales Lira; Nicole Caballero. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. (TD) 1-3. 10, 2025

Gridley Post Acute Earns Five Stars



The brightly-decorated Gridley Post Acute nurses station is “where all of the magic happens.”

Story and photos by Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Post Acute Skilled Nursing (formerly Hovlid) is now a five-star facility, granted by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid. This makes it the only five-star skilled nursing facility in both Butte and Yuba counties. There are currently 72 patients at the facility, with a capacity of 82. Both long- and short-term patients are treated. Hovlid was purchased and renamed three

years ago by West Harbor Health Care, when it had a one-star rating, according to marketing director Sarah Boesen. “They (Western Harbor Health Care) own a line of other skilled nursing facilities around California in Carlsbad, Petaluma and Redding,” said Boesen. “We don’t have any travelling employees; they are all here (all the time),” said Boesen, who has been with this facility for a year. “They speak eight languages, so languages aren’t a barrier to your health. I had my mother-in-law

here at our facility for a while. She was Spanish speaking only... she had the best experience. She went home after two weeks, with no home-health care, at age 85.” When asked about the criteria for the rating, Boesen responded, “The quality measures, the staff-to-patient ratio, being able to meet their needs, health inspections, safety of patients, and the overall cleanliness of the facility are all factors.” Gridley Post Acute gets referrals from many areas such as Ukiah and UC Davis, as well as

Oroville and Enloe hospitals. The cases are evaluated to see if the patient’s needs can be met and then transportation is arranged to Gridley. The Gridley Herald was given a tour of the facility. The Rehabilitation Room was the first stop. All different skill levels are accommodated there, from activities for patients in wheelchairs and on up. Next came the nurse’s station “where all of the magic happens,” Boesen said. Plenty of Christmas decorations

were displayed and a special celebration was held on Dec. 24. All 72 patients received candy, clothing and blankets, thanks to the donors who supported the Amazon wish list. So many clothing items arrived that some will be saved for new, incoming patients, according to activities director Sharla Ehorn. Special consideration was also given to those patients who do not celebrate Christmas. Tours for families of prospective patients are always welcomed. Contact Boesen at 530-380-3112. ★



The Rehabilitation room at Gridley Post Acute provides for patients of many different skill levels.

Gallagher Condemns Approval of Newsom’s Gas Car Ban

Assembly Republicans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher condemned the lame-duck Biden administration’s decision to approve Gov. Newsom’s radical gas-powered car ban. “Never mind that the technology isn’t there and the charging infrastructure is falling apart. Never mind that this isn’t practical in rural areas or that people can’t afford to pay even higher up-front costs for cars,” said Gallagher. “Newsom and his Democrat allies are all in on making life harder and more expensive for working Californians. Looks like the

governor’s tour of red parts of California was just a publicity stunt, because Newsom clearly hasn’t learned anything from it.” The gas car ban was unilaterally imposed by Newsom in an executive order after twice being rejected by the people’s representatives in the Legislature. On Dec. 18, with barely a month left before leaving office, bureaucrats in the Biden administration granted a waiver to California, allowing the ban to proceed. *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.* ★

CHP Secures Federal Grant to Enhance Older Driver Safety

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP), in partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety, announced the receipt of a \$225,000 federal grant to launch the “Keeping Everyone Safe” (KEYS) program. This program is designed to enhance traffic education and health awareness for drivers aged 65 and older and aims to ensure older drivers remain safe, confident and informed on the road. A vital feature of this program is the “Age Well, Drive Smart” class. This free, two-hour course addresses older drivers’ unique challenges, such as age-related changes, crash risk factors, safe driving strategies and Department of Motor Vehicles licensing requirements. This class also provides helpful self-assessment resources. Classes are offered at all CHP area offices and taught by experienced CHP public information officers (PIOs), who

bring the class directly to community locations for added convenience. In addition, public information officers will engage with older drivers at local events and community gatherings. “Ensuring the safety of California’s older drivers is essential as they remain active on our roads. This federal grant allows us to provide targeted resources and support to help them drive confidently and safely,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “Our goal is to enhance their independence while reducing risks, making our state’s roads safer for everyone.” The CHP is committed to supporting California’s older drivers with the education and the resources they need to continue driving safely and confidently. For more information on the “KEYS” program or to enroll in an upcoming “Age Well, Drive Smart” class, contact your local CHP office. This program is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★



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Territorial Dispatch Adjudicated For and By the County of Yuba, Adjudication No. YCSCCVPT 13-0001066-February 05, 2014

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The Territorial Dispatch is published weekly on Friday.

*In rural Sutter, Yuba, Butte Counties \$98/year.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-296
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Magikly Clean by Juliana
10789 Kenneth Ave.
Dobbins, CA 95935
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 333
Dobbins, CA 95935
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Juliana Delores Beth
P.O. Box 333
Dobbins, CA 95935
This business is conducted by an Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/01/2020.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Juliana D Beth
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 9, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-287
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
The Work Hub
922 G Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 110
Marysville, CA 95901
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Sutter Networks LLC
922 G Street
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/02/2024.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Darci Ferguson
CA Managing Editor
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 06, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 3, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-299
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Performance Auto Supply
220 F Street
Marysville, CA 95901
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Richard K. Dozier
220 F Street
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/11/2024.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Richard K. Dozier
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 11, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Dec. 20, 27, 2024,
Jan. 3, 10, 2025
CALL 530-743-6643 TO PLACE YOUR YUBA COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2024F-263
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
OLON VENTURES
12594 Shetland Lane
Oregon House, CA 95962
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 861
Oregon House, CA 95962
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Evangelos Moschovas
P.O. Box 861
Oregon House, CA 95962
This business is conducted by an Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/06/2024.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Evangelos Moschovas
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 06, 2024.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Dec. 13, 20, 27, 2024,
Jan. 3, 2025

Starbucks Workers Picket Here



A Marysville Starbucks, located at 904 E St., is busy at work a day after the nationwide Starbucks Workers United strike ends. Photo by Shamaya Sutton



Pickers stand outside the Marysville Starbucks in Washington Square on Christmas Eve. This Marysville Starbucks participated in the nationwide strike authorized by Starbucks Workers United from Dec. 20 to Dec. 24. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Central Labor Council

By Shamaya Sutton

YUBA-SUTTER, CA (MPG) - Starbucks workers were seen picketing in both Marysville and Yuba City over the holiday week at two locations that joined Starbucks Workers United earlier in 2024. These include a Yuba City Starbucks located at 1615 Colusa Highway and the Marysville Starbucks in Washington Square located at 904 E St.

“We wanted to show our joint support and picket so that way we could feel like we were all together,” said JJ Dizon, a barista and bargaining delegate for Yuba City.

Dizon has worked at Starbucks for seven years and helped organize the Marysville store this past summer. She said that her Yuba City store did not shut down due to partner hesitations but that the Marysville location did as part of a nationwide strike organized by the Starbucks Workers United union.

“Some partners didn’t feel like they were safe, they felt like they might face retaliation from the company and they didn’t feel like they could afford to do this right before Christmas,” Dizon said. “Marysville, they’re a much bigger location and I feel like they just felt like they had more power and more impact to be able to shut down.”

Starbucks Workers United got its start in December 2021 and has since expanded to include approximately 527 stores across 47 states. The primary reason cited for these unionizations

were employee concerns (specifically baristas) over short staffing, unpredictable scheduling, low wages, unaffordable healthcare, harassment, broken equipment and unfair discipline.

“Personally, I really wanted to do this for my store because I saw so many of my baristas and coworkers in need, so many of them were telling me about how they couldn’t access their benefits because their hours were getting cut and how we were being asked to do more with smaller staffed stores,” said Dizon. “We just weren’t getting paid enough to do more.”

Silvia Baldwin, a Philadelphia barista and bargaining delegate, voiced her concerns in an online statement posted to Starbucks Workers United’s website.

“Right now, I’m making \$16.50 an hour,” said Baldwin. “Meanwhile, Brian Niccol’s compensation package is worth \$57,000 an hour. The company just announced I’m only getting a 2.5% raise next year, \$0.40 an hour, which is hardly anything. It’s one Starbucks drink per week. Starbucks needs to invest in the baristas who make Starbucks run.”

For context, Brian Niccol is the former CEO of Chipotle who took on his new position as Starbucks CEO in September. According to the union, his compensation package is worth at least \$113 million, approximately 10,000 times the median hourly wage for a barista. On Dec. 16, he publicly announced that starting in March 2025, the company would more than

double its paid parental leave program for U.S. store partners who work an average of 20 hours a week or more. This would amount to 18 weeks of fully paid leave for birth parents, and up to 12 weeks of fully paid leave for non-birth parents.

“No other retailer offers a better parental leave benefit for new parents,” said Niccol in a prepared statement. “Our benefit was already the best in retail, but after hearing from some partners who shared the leave as new parents wasn’t adequate, we reviewed the program and have decided we’re making a change.”

As a bargaining delegate, Dizon travels to Los Angeles about once a month to help negotiate the union’s contract directly with the company. She said that the new benefits package was something the union brought up in November’s bargaining meeting with the company.

“We had found out that the parental leave for retail partners, baristas like me, was six weeks, and that corporate or non-store partners would get 12 weeks, so we questioned why their time with their kids meant more than ours,” said Dizon.

According to Dizon, the timing of Starbucks’ new package announcement, Dec. 16, coincided with the travel dates of union delegates who were making their way to the monthly meeting.

“(We) had to find out from third parties that a new parental leave package was announced and that Starbucks didn’t even mention that it was something that we were talking

about last month at the bargaining table,” said Dizon.

In addition to this, Dizon said much of the bargaining progress had been stalled on numerous issues such as health and safety conditions, unreliable technology, and low wages. The company had originally committed to an end of year deadline to settle the contract but with that timeline quickly closing in, Dizon and her team were skeptical.

“They weren’t coming to the table with something serious, it felt like they were not authorized to actually negotiate with us or collaborate on the process and were instead just saying ‘we might be able to give you one percent more,’” said Dizon.

In an effort to show their power, Starbucks Workers United voted to authorize a strike, if needed, on Dec. 17, one day after Niccol’s big announcement. The Starbucks company maintains that its numerous “industry leading” benefits averages out to a compensation package equal to about \$30 an hour. These benefits include 100% tuition coverage for an online degree from Arizona State University, opportunities to participate in a Bean Stock grant which gives employees an ownership stake in the company, and health benefits included also for part-time workers.

“These are just some of the benefits we offer,” said Niccol. “We want every partner to know that Starbucks is the best place to work and grow their career.”

Starbucks Workers United

planned to start its five-day strike on Dec. 20, a time when Starbucks usually sees a large influx of last-minute holiday shoppers. It’s unclear exactly how many Starbucks participated in the strike or closed their doors entirely. Various news outlets claimed anywhere from 100 to 300 Starbucks had to close shop due to picketing. However, Sara Kelly, executive vice president and chief partner officer, approximated that only a total of 60 stores were temporarily closed as of Dec. 24.

“We have over 10,000 company-operated stores across the U.S. that provide work for partners and serve our customers,” said Kelly in a prepared statement. “The vast majority of our stores (97 – 99%) will continue to operate and serve customers, and we expect a very limited impact to our overall operations.”

The Starbucks strike concluded on Dec. 25 and union officials said they are ready to return to the bargaining table. Kelly said that Starbucks is willing to continue negotiations but that the unions proposal for an immediate increase of 64% to hourly minimum wage partners, and up to 77% over the life of a three-year contract, was not sustainable especially considering the investments the company is making to its total benefits package.

“I think that the union has had so much of an effect on things we see in our store every day and it just keeps growing,” said Dizon. “It’s such a big movement... This is just the beginning.” ★

High Wheelers 2025 Schedule and Season Tickets Available

High Wheelers News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The 2024 Pioneer Baseball League Champions, Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers, in conjunction with the Pioneer Baseball League, have announced their 2025 game schedule. The team will be playing at Marysville’s Bryant Field, a historic ballpark built from New Deal investments. In the past, the community has hosted baseball legends such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Jackie Robinson.

The inaugural season will begin at Bryant Field on Tuesday, May 20 against the Grand Junction Jackalopes. The final game of the season will take place against the Missoula PaddleHeads on Sunday, September 7. Through the 2025 season, the High Wheelers will host eight home games on each of the following days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Game start times will be announced at a later date.

During the 2025 season, the High Wheelers will welcome seven of the eleven possible Pioneer Baseball League



Seating chart for inaugural Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers’ season at Bryant Field in Marysville.

opponents (Grand Junction, Glacier, Northern Colorado, Rocky Mountain,

Oakland, Boise, and Missoula) to the Yuba-Sutter region. Also, the High

Wheelers will travel to six of the possible eleven road sites (Ogden, Rocky Mountain, Northern Colorado, Glacier, Idaho Falls, and Oakland) this season.

Be a part of history as an inaugural Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers Season Seat holder. Enjoy the same seats for all 48 home dates and first right-of-refusal for all other events at Bryant Field. Season seat packages are a great means of entertaining clients, co-workers, family and friends during the summer months.

Enjoy access to the entire season with a Full Season Seat Plan. Season seats offer companies the opportunity to reward employees, clients, and prospects with some of the best seats at Bryant Field. These plans are great for die-hard baseball fans to individuals looking for a FUN way to enjoy their summer in Yuba-Sutter. With a season seat package, you’ll receive all our great promotional nights, including Opening Night at Bryant Field.

Single game tickets for all 48 Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers home games will go on sale in April. For more information, or to reserve your Full Season Seat Plan, visit www.HighWheelers.com. ★

State Water Project Allocation Increases



Above average precipitation and snowpack allow for an increase in planned water deliveries for 2025. Photo courtesy California Department of Water Resources

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 23, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an update to the State Water Project allocation forecast for 2025. The allocation has increased to 15 percent of requested supplies, up from the initial allocation forecast of 5 percent announced in December. The State Water Project provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27-million Californians.

Strong storms in late

November and early December have helped boost statewide precipitation to just above average for this time of year. Reservoir levels have also increased because of the storms. The initial allocation forecast announced on Dec. 2 had not accounted for these storms because the data was not yet available to water managers. Prior to the second half of November, the start of the water year had been dry and warm.

“The past several weeks has brought welcome rain and snow to Northern California and these improved conditions have allowed the State Water Project to increase the allocation forecast

to the benefit of millions of Californians,” said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. “While we typically wait to provide an update until January, we felt it important to let our state water contractors know of the increase as soon as possible to allow them to better plan their water supply for the year ahead.”

State water managers will continue to monitor precipitation and snowpack conditions, as well as account for dry soils that might soak up some of the spring runoff following record heat this past summer. Additionally, Southern California remains very dry and has not benefited from the

atmospheric rivers experienced so far this season.

“California is still in the early months of our wet season and as recent history has shown, conditions can change quickly,” said Dr. Michael Anderson, state climatologist. “While Northern California has benefitted from early season storms, dry conditions in the new year can leave us with below average totals when warmer weather arrives.”

Each year, the Department of Water Resources provides State Water Project allocation forecasts based on available water storage, projected water supply and water demands. Allocations are

updated monthly as snowpack, rainfall and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June. As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast might increase. The next update will likely come this month and will use information from the season’s first snow surveys.

The allocation forecast notice to state water contractors and historical data on State Water Project allocations are available online at water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors.

Help Wanted - Trucking Newspapers

MESSENGER PUBLISHING GROUP

is seeking a delivery driver to haul our newspapers every Thursday morning from our offices in Carmichael to our locations in Marysville and Gridley.

Newspapers must be loaded in Carmichael at 8:30 Thursday mornings. Delivery then drops to Marysville by 11:30 am and then drops to Gridley by 1:00 pm.

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This is an independent contractor position. You must have a very reliable cargo van to be able to handle the volume of newspapers being delivered. You must have current DMV, drivers license, proper insurance and must be a resident of the State of California.

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