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Bok Kai Festival Returns



The 145th Bok Kai Festival, celebrating the Year of the Snake, will take place in downtown Marysville on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and March 2. The Chinese American Museum of Northern California will be open on March 1. Photo by Teri Saya

By MPG Staff

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The 145th Bok Kai Festival, celebrating the Year of the Snake, will take place in downtown Marysville on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and March 2.

The event is recognized as California's oldest continuously-held parade. Events throughout the weekend also include a car show, rib cook off, street vendors and fireworks.

Bok Kai is celebrated each year on the second day of the second month of the Chinese lunar calendar. This year's festivities will begin on Saturday, March 1 with the Bok Kai parade at 11 a.m. and will continue into Sunday, March 2 with "Bomb Day," concluding at 4 p.m.

The 145th annual Bok Kai parade

will feature a vibrant procession of floats, performers and community groups, all celebrating the spirit and history of Bok Eye and the Marysville Chinese Community.

The parade organizers are proud to announce that Ric Lim has been selected as the grand marshal for this year's event. With a lifetime of dedication to public service and community involvement, Ric Lim has made significant contributions to Marysville and the Yuba Sutter Area.

To accommodate the festival and the parade, Yuba-Sutter Transit's Route 1 and 4 will not serve bus stops on B Street, D Street and F Street on Saturday, March 1.

The nearest alternative downtown stops in Marysville for Routes 1 and 4 on Saturday, March 1, will be on 3rd Street at or near the Adventist

Health and Rideout Hospital.

Coinciding with the 145th Annual Bok Kai Festival, the Chinese American Museum of Northern California in Marysville is opening a new exhibit on March 1 entitled "The Chinese Pioneer Families of Northern California." There will be tours and lectures at the museum as part of this new exhibit. The museum is at 303 1st St., Marysville. For more information, check online at ChineseAmericanMuseum.com.

The museum exhibit will feature Chinese Pioneer Families from 13 Chinatowns: Auburn, Eureka, Fiddletown, Folsom, Hanford, Locke, Marysville, Mendocino, Oroville, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Jose and Stockton. The exhibit will be open from noon to 5 p.m. March 1. ★

LaMalfa, Thompson Introduce Pacific Flyway Habitat Enhancement Act

Congressman Doug LaMalfa News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)

- Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) and Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) re-introduced the Pacific Flyway Habitat Enhancement Act. This bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to enroll additional agricultural lands in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program as long as it is necessary to address wetland habitat concerns. Additionally, it encourages farmers to manage their working croplands in ways that support wetland-dependent species by permitting seasonal flooding of these fields.

"Drought is always just around the corner, and we have to make the most of the water we get to benefit farms, people, and wildlife. Even in a better water year, poor water policies hurt both farmers and wildlife," said LaMalfa. "This bill helps protect both by supporting agriculture and the hundreds of species that rely on the Pacific Flyway. It's a common-sense, bipartisan approach to keeping habitats intact and land productive."

Said Thompson, "Many wildlife species rely on wetland habitat created by California's farmers, including our rice growers. With the Pacific Flyway Habitat Enhancement Act, we can expand USDA support for our local growers, offering resources so qualified farmers can flood their fields in the off-season to both improve soil conditions and support the Pacific Flyway ecosystem. Thank you to Rep. LaMalfa for his partnership on this legislation."

Said Kellis Moss, Ducks Unlimited managing director of Federal Affairs, "The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a valuable tool that incentivizes producers to seasonally flood croplands, providing habitat and nutrients for the benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife. Pacific Flyway waterfowl rely on these seasonally flooded agricultural lands, and the Pacific Flyway Habitat Enhancement Act ensures continued availability of this vital habitat. We're happy to see Rep. LaMalfa

City Hopes to Find Source of PFAs in Water



At their Feb. 19 meeting, the Live Oak City Council discussed levels of PFAs (forever chemicals) in the city wells. Photo by PublicDomainPictures via Pixabay

Story by Shaunna Boyd

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - At the Feb. 19 meeting of the Live Oak City Council, Interim Public Works Director Jeff Nelson presented an update about the levels of PFAs (forever chemicals) in the city wells.

The first detection showed 3.3 parts per trillion in Well 2 and a recent re-test showed levels of 3.4.

Nelson clarified that a level of more than 3 requires public notification but no action is required until a level of 20 parts per trillion is detected. One recommendation at that level is to blend the water with other sources and Nelson said Well 2 is already blended before distribution, bringing the level down to 2.1.

Councilmember Nancy Santana asked for details about the levels in

other city wells.

Nelson said that Well 1 had levels at 1.8 and Well 4 had 2.1. No PFAs were detected in Wells 3 and 5. Nelson said all the wells where PFAs were detected (Wells 1, 2, and 4) are west of Highway 99.

Nelson said city staff plan to monitor the issue by testing the wells twice each year.

Continued on page 3

The Art Box Gallery Presents the Work of Yesenia Cachu

Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - In keeping with a long-established tradition, Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture throws open the doors at its Sutter Theater Center for the Arts each month and welcomes into its Art Box Gallery a guest artist to showcase their work. At this free event, the paintings and photography of local artist, Yesenia Cachu, will be featured.

Come celebrate this artist and arts educator and experience her varied, multi-disciplinary work. The show's opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. March 7 in the Gallery at 754 Plumas St. in Yuba City. In addition to a wide variety of thought-provoking art, this event features interesting people, great conversation, and free appetizers and drinks. The artist will talk about her work and what inspires her to create.

Cachu was born in La Ladera, Michoacan, Mexico in 1988. Her parents immigrated to California when she was two years old. She was raised in the Yuba-Sutter area but found growing up in a Mexican household in America an enigma. Cachu struggled



The paintings and photography of local artist, Yesenia Cachu, will be featured at the Art Box Gallery. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

to fit into the expectations of American social norms while battling to hold on to her Mexican culture. She worked hard at trying to assimilate, prove she was a patriot to this country by celebrating its traditions, correcting her accent, appearance, hobbies, and even the music she listened to, as well as the language she spoke.

"Suppressing my roots

is what I learned to do as a kid," Cachu said.

"It wasn't until my late 20s that I learned to heal parts of myself that were suppressed. As I began my spiritual and emotional healing journey, I slowly found my vision and voice," Cachu said. "Now, fully immersed in my 30s, I've explored many parts of my Mexican roots, including the music, language, and stories from elders, especially those from my late grandfather. These collections of artworks combine different moments. I have felt inspired by my visits back home to La Ladera, Michoacan, Mexico, and was profoundly inspired by my grandfather."

Cachu's art has become a part of her identity, her history, creating a timeline of her journey which she says is still forming. She presents these personal experiences and specifically those that are connected to memories of her grandfather. Cachu believes in the restorative practice of diving into obstacles and taking these life lessons as opportunities to learn and grow.

She advises us to "Sink into your experiences, explore your roots, and get to know yourself again."

The Art Box Gallery is located inside the Sutter Theater Center for the



La Catrina by Yesena Cachu. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

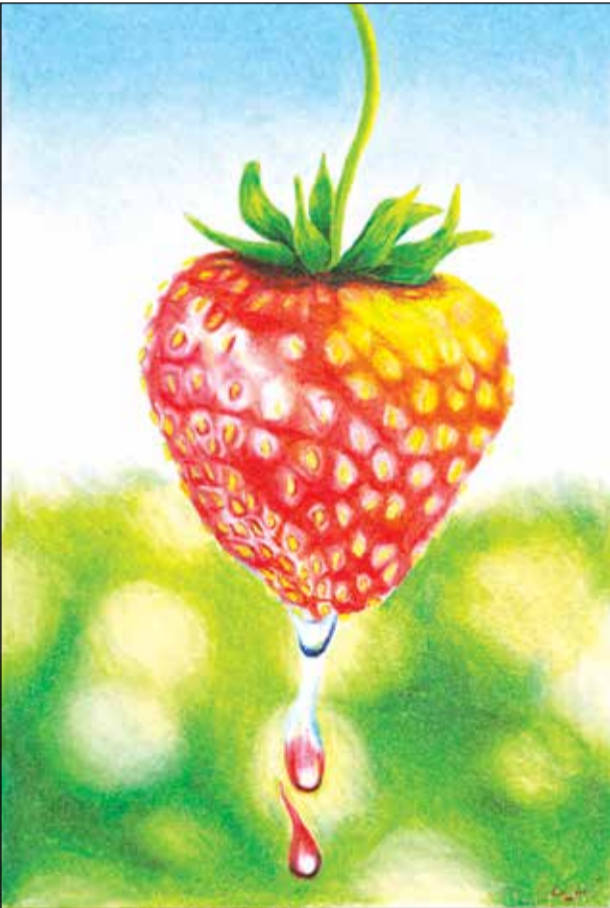
Arts. The reception will also celebrate the work of four Anchor Artists. Emily Cordi loves to create from recycled and foraged materials. She is inspired by the wildlife, nature, agriculture, and countryside of the Sutter Buttes near her family's winery. Laurie Trent-Butsch creates jewelry from vintage China in 2019 and started working with vintage silverware in 2020. She discovered a passion for working with unwanted, neglected silverware, bringing these pieces back to life as beautiful, wearable pieces of art that can convey stories of family and love. See original works of art created by former high school welder turned metal sculpture artist, Dude Green, alongside Navy Veteran and retired arts educator, master ceramist Drew Sallee.

Your purchase of a work of original art helps support the artists as well as Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture. For additional information about this exhibition and

the reception, contact Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture at email@yubaustterarts.org.

Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture is a nonprofit 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, Convergence Theater Company, Center Stage Productions, the Yuba Sutter Big Band, and Yuba Sutter Youth Choir. ★



La Fresa by Yesena Cachu. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture



El Viejo by Yesena Cachu. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

LaMalfa, Thompson Introduce Pacific Flyway Habitat Enhancement Act



Doug LaMalfa



Mike Thompson

Continued from page 1 and Rep. Thompson introduce this important legislation to support landowners and waterfowl habitat."

Said John Devney, chief policy officer at Delta Waterfowl, "We appreciate Rep. LaMalfa and Rep. Thompson's Pacific Flyway Habitat Enhancement Act as an additional tool in the toolbox to reward the stewardship of producers to conserve and enhance waterfowl habitat on their working lands. We look forward to this being part of the conversation as Congress presses forward with continuing work on the Farm Bill and the myriad of ways we can work with private landowners to conserve, restore and enhance duck habitat."

Congressman Doug LaMalfa is

chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and a lifelong farmer representing California's First Congressional District, including Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties.

Congressman Mike Thompson represents California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Thompson is chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and is a member of the fiscally-responsible Blue Dog Coalition. ★



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Federal Funding Opportunities Discussed in Live Oak

By Shaunna Boyd

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) -The Live Oak City Council held a special meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss possible federal funding opportunities for community facilities and water system upgrades.

Sally Tripp with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development outlined a variety of programs offered by the department that could support the community of Live Oak.

Tripp explained, "You determine what your community needs. We're just trying to provide the funding for it."

Tripp said that the City of Live Oak has an existing loan with United States Department of Agriculture at approximately \$1 million taken out 20 years ago to pay for the city's water system. The loan also came with a \$1.4- million grant at that time.

The United States Department of Agriculture doesn't impose a maximum amount on its long-term, low-interest loans; the total is determined by the repayment amount the city can afford. Tripp said the current interest rate on their loans is approximately 4 1/8 percent.

In the Community Facilities loan program, eligible projects could include new buildings, the purchase of land and the purchase of equipment. The Water and Wastewater program would cover projects such as new water lines, new wells, an emergency program for systems damaged by disaster, and upgrades to water or sewer plants.

Councilmember Nancy Santana said one of her top priorities is establishing a School Resource Officer (SRO) for local schools, and she asked if there would be any funding that could support such a position. Tripp said the Community Facilities program cannot fund ongoing operating costs but could be used for the purchase of necessary equipment, including a police vehicle.

Councilmember Ashley Hernandez, who attended via teleconference, asked about funding for improving local businesses and supporting the launch of new businesses. Tripp said there are rural business development grants that could provide one-time funding for new businesses, and loans could cover improvements to sidewalks, roads, and gutters, as well as ADA upgrades.

Of particular interest was potential funding for Water and Wastewater upgrades. Interim Public Works Director Jeff Nelson said that despite low levels of PFAs (forever chemicals) found in some of Live Oak's wells, most of the wells are in good shape and meeting current demand. However, the water system is due for some maintenance, and the city would like to add an eighth well in addition to a water storage tank.



Nelson said that if a well had to be taken offline for any reason, "we're a little vulnerable," so an extra well would be beneficial and "serve future growth of the city."

The water system lift stations are also in need of upgrades. Nelson said the P Street station is very old and being managed "with baling wire and rubber bands. ... It really needs to be completely redone." A design was previously completed and put out to bid, but the project was cancelled due to lack of funding.

Nelson added that the storm water system also needs upgrades, since there are areas of the city that flood during heavy rain events.

Tripp said all those projects would be eligible for funding under the Water and Wastewater program, so the appropriate program liaisons will reach out to city staff to assist with the application process.

Vice-Mayor Aaron Pamma asked for an overview of the application process, and Tripp explained they accept applications year-round. The first step is a pre-application process to determine if a proposed project is eligible for funding. If it is eligible, then the city submits the complete application, and approval would be determined within 45 days. The United States Department of Agriculture would then present a letter of conditions, and if the city agrees, they sign documents to officially request the funds. Then the design and bid process can begin, and the money is released into an account for city access.

Tripp cautioned that last year, Congress only allocated \$250,000 to the Community Facilities program for the whole state of California, with a maximum award of \$50,000. And they are not sure how much funding will be made available for all the United States Department of Agriculture programs this year. But the federal budget should be approved in March, so then they will have a better idea of how much of each type of funding will be available.

Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine said, "We have some work to do now and figure out what the priorities are." He said the council will follow up to determine program eligibility for the projects that will most benefit Live Oak residents.

Vice-Mayor Pamma said, "This is huge for us, so we've got to take advantage." ★

City Hopes to Find Source of PFAs in Water

Continued from page 1

"We're also going to try and figure out if we can determine what the source of the PFAs is," Nelson said, and to determine if it's some sort of sample contamination or if it can be attributed to the groundwater flow.

Some "detective work" over the next few months will be done, Nelson said, looking at nearby industrial sites or manufacturing businesses that could be the cause.

While "no one wants chemicals in their water," Nelson said, the current levels "are very low."

Vice-Mayor Aaron Pamma asked staff "to be proactive and try to tackle this problem and try to find a solution to what causes this contamination, sooner rather than later."

Councilmember Bob Woten asked if there is a pattern in the levels of contamination in the surrounding areas.

Nelson replied that various jurisdictions are dealing with much higher levels. He offered Marysville as an example, which had detections of PFAs above the action level.

Councilmember Santana suggested staff reach out to the City of Marysville as part of their research into causes and potential solutions.

Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine said that when he spoke with representatives from the State Water Board, the Department of Drinking Water and the Office of Water Programs, they said the trend is to see higher levels near former industrial sites. Legislation to deal with this issue is still new, Chapdelaine said, and while current action is not required by the state, "it would serve us well to go ahead and continue the monitoring" to ensure levels don't increase.

Mayor Chapdelaine added that any existing grants targeting this issue are going to focus on areas with action levels: "Those communities are going to take priority."

City Council then discussed the possibility of establishing the position of a public information officer. Responsibilities could include informing the public about recreational opportunities, local events, new city policies and emergency updates.

Councilmember Woten said it would make sense to provide cross-training for an existing employee to fulfill these tasks along with their current position.

Councilmember Santana said that if the city were to hire any new employees, it should be a School Resource Officer (SRO), so she asked if this item was recommending a new employee or promoting an existing employee.

Vice Mayor Pamma said that the most important role of a Public Information Officer is "to increase transparency from the city to the public, which we need." Pamma said the city needs to ensure accurate information is consistently shared with residents, which is why an official position is necessary. But he supported the idea of training existing staff to handle the tasks, since he doesn't think it would require a dedicated full-time position.

Mayor Chapdelaine said that an existing staff member could certainly handle the duties of updating the city's website and social media pages to highlight events and important notices. He agreed that it would not require a full-time position, especially since the city has a contract with the Sheriff's department, which already has a dedicated Public Information Officer to handle emergency notifications.

The Council consensus was to assign the City's Public Information Officer role to existing staff, so Interim City Manager Rick Crabtree will make a recommendation at a future meeting about who should be designated to fill that position.

The next meeting of the Live Oak City Council is scheduled for March 5. ~★

Have a Heart for Kids 5K Run/Walk

A Family-Friendly Fundraiser Supporting Local Children

Have a Heart for Kids News Release

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Yuba City community is invited to lace up their running shoes and join the annual Have a Heart for Kids 5K Run/Walk, hosted by the Yuba City Education Foundation.

Scheduled for 9 a.m. March 15 at the River Valley High School Football Stadium, this fun-filled, family-friendly event aims to raise funds for local children in need.

The event features chip timing and awards and will take place rain or shine. Participants of all ages are encouraged to take part, with a registration fee of \$30 for adults and \$20 for kids.

In addition to the race, attendees can enjoy a breakfast provided by the Yuba City Kiwanis Early Risers and an award ceremony at 10 a.m. Families, businesses, and community organizations are encouraged to participate through sponsorships, donations and volunteering.

"Our goal is to create a memorable experience for families while making a real difference in the lives of local children," said Jennifer Cates, president of the Yuba City Education Foundation. "Every dollar raised stays in our community to support programs and initiatives that help our youth thrive."

To register, visit runsignup.com/race/ca/yubacity/haveaheart5k. ★

Vaccinations Urged After Flu Season's First Death

Butte County Public Health News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Butte County Public Health (BCPH) reported Feb. 19 the first flu-related death for the 2024-25 flu season, underscoring the severe impact of seasonal viruses. The individual, who was in their 60s and unvaccinated, died due to influenza complications.

Residents, especially those at increased risk for complications, are urged to get vaccinated against the flu and take other actions to prevent respiratory illnesses.

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends affected by this tragic loss," said Dr. Jarett Beaudoin, Butte County health officer. "These deaths are a heart-breaking reminder of the seriousness of respiratory illnesses, particularly for those most vulnerable, including young children, older adults and individuals with underlying health conditions."

Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death. Butte County Public Health

strongly encourages everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them. Vaccination of pregnant women also helps to protect infants too young to be vaccinated.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available at local healthcare providers and pharmacies throughout Butte County. Residents are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider for more information on vaccine availability and eligibility. The RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccination is available for older adults, pregnant people, infants and caregivers of children younger than 19 months. Contact your healthcare provider to determine if RSV vaccination is recommended for you.

In addition to vaccination, community members are urged to take everyday precautions to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses, including:

Washing hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth

Staying home when sick. Keeping sick children home from school, according to the school's sick-child policy (typically symptoms improving and no fever without medication for 24 hours)

Wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces

Covering coughs and sneezes

Avoiding close contact with those who are ill.

Those who have flu-like symptoms should immediately contact their healthcare provider. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and fatigue. ★



Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available at local healthcare providers and pharmacies throughout Butte County. MPG file photo

Malaria and Dengue Fever Cases Confirmed Locally

Sutter County and Yuba County Public Health Offices News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Sutter County Public Health has recently confirmed a travel-related dengue fever case. Yuba County Public Health also recently confirmed a travel-related malaria case.

Both diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes. In both cases the patient contracted the diseases by traveling to endemic countries in Mexico (dengue) and East Africa (malaria).

The risk of either disease being transmitted locally in the Yuba-Sutter region is very low. However, to protect yourself during international travel, Public Health and the Mosquito Vector Control District would like to remind all Sutter County and Yuba County residents to take precautions pre-travel, during travel, and post-travel to protect themselves from travel-related mosquito diseases.

Prior to international travel, review country-specific travel recommendations, health notices and warnings. Also, visit a travel clinic or your healthcare provider for pre-travel medical care including malaria medication. Pack an Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellent.

Specifically for dengue, pack acetaminophen (also known as paracetamol outside of the United States) in your first aid kit. These medications can be used to manage fever and body pain in case you get dengue while traveling.

During your international travel, follow steps to prevent mosquito bites to protect yourself and your family. Stay in places with air conditioning and with window/



Malaria and Dengue Fever are both transmitted by mosquitos. MPG file photo

door screens. Use a bed net if air conditioned or screened rooms are not available or if sleeping outdoors. See a healthcare provider if you develop a fever or have symptoms of dengue or malaria.

After your international travel, even if you do not feel sick, travelers returning from an area at risk of dengue or at risk of malaria should take steps to prevent mosquito bites for three weeks so they do not spread dengue or malaria to mosquitoes that could spread the virus to other people.

See a healthcare provider if you develop a fever or flu-like symptoms that could be concerning for dengue or malaria. Tell him or her about your travel.

For additional local information contact the Sutter County Public Health Office via phone at 530-822-7215, or via e-mail at docsup@co.sutter.ca.us. Yuba County Public Health can be contacted via phone at 530-749-6311, and via e-mail: HHSD_CD@co.yuba.ca.us ★

This Month In Your Garden

by Jeff Rice

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March is the beginning of spring weather around here, although frequently it's late February. The first day of spring officially happens on March 20th this year. It's a really nice time to spend in the garden and landscape. Lots of chores to do and really nice weather for it.

It's time to get your vegetable gardens ready for planting. Don't plant too early though. Warmer days don't mean warm nights. A good rule of thumb to use for when to plant vegetables, is when nighttime low temperatures are consistently 50 degrees or higher. Consistently means at least a week or two and forecasts for that to continue. The soil needs to be warm before putting out spring vegetables. We frequently have warm weather in February and March, but the nights are still too cold for putting out vegetables. If you put out vegetables when the nights are still cold and the soil is still cold, they can be stunted. We highly recommend waiting till at least April to put out summer vegetable starts. Select a spot with lots of sunlight for your vegetable garden. Some intermittent shade as the sun moves across the area is alright. The soil will probably need to be spaded or roto-tilled to loosen it. If the soil is heavy clay it will take several rounds of tilling and adding planting mix or compost to help break up the clay. Adding organic soil conditioners and fertilizers will build your soil rather than chemical products that give a quick boost but don't last in the soil. The decomposition of organic matter such as crushed leaves and grass clippings can be interspersed into heavy clay soil to help lighten it as well as create spaces to help with drainage which is a problem with very dense clay. Many of our customers in the foothills are very familiar with the clay soil, and maintain a compost pile - an effective way to always have soil additive ready when you need it. A compost pile is not especially attractive and might be offensive to some neighbors in town, but there are containers available that work well and will breakdown trimmings into compost. It is not a fast process, but it is still a good way to dispose of trimmings and weeds, and make good use of them. If you use raised beds, start getting them ready for planting when the weather and calendar are right for it.

Now is the time to try to keep weeds and brush under control - they both grow rapidly and can be an invasive problem. Control can be accomplished in several different ways such as pulling them by hand, tilling them, mowing and weed eating, or using herbicides. Pre-emergent is another effective way of weed control. It is probably too late now for the weeds that are already coming up but can stop any that have not yet sprouted. With

pre-emergent, be careful not to apply it where you planted flower seeds for spring color or where you will be planting vegetable seeds or other seeds. It will stop them from sprouting. A combination of all those things seem to work for most people, depending on the areas to be done, the kind of weeds, etc. All methods require that some caution be used in order not to harm something else in the process.

With the weather warming, and plants breaking dormancy and starting to put on new spring growth, it is also time to fertilize just about everything to give them all a good start. An all purpose fertilizer is fine for most plants, but try to use the proper fertilizer on those things that need it, such as citrus food and acid based fertilizer. I have a few words of caution, though. Should you have any plant that has buds that should open several weeks later than your date of fertilizing, skip those plants until they have finished blooming. Fertilizing while the buds are not mature might cause the plant to start putting on vigorous new growth that could push the unopened buds off. Just wait until it has finished blooming, and fertilize it then. It is natural for spring blooming plants to put out new growth following their bloom period. This caution refers to those plants that bloom only once a year in the spring. Sometimes, for instance, some rhododendrons are later blooming. Enjoy all of their beautiful blooms, and fertilize them after they have finished. Another cautionary statement on rhodies - be sure to break off the flower trusses left following the petals falling, to reduce seed formation which will reduce next year's bloom.

Warmer spring weather also brings the insects. Slugs, snails, earwigs, aphids all welcome the warmer weather. Aphids multiply exponentially and ants farm them by moving them from one place to another because they like the sticky honeydew that they leave behind. Aphids can be controlled by hosing them off frequently, and there are insecticides that will control them for longer time. Controlling the ants helps to control the aphids.

This is an excellent time to plant most anything. Perennials can also be dug and divided. They can become well established more easily in the cooler spring temperatures and thus, withstand the heat of the summer. Enjoy the beauty of the spring season.

Jeff Rice is the owner of Bald Mountain Nursery on Bald Mountain Road in Browns Valley We are the "Unexpected Nursery on a Little Country Road."

Baldmountainnursery.com
(530) 743-4856

CALIFORNIA COMMENTARY



Is it the End of the Line for the High Speed Rail Project?



By Jon Coupal

Everything we predicted about California's High Speed Rail project (HSR) has come to rotten fruition.

Frequent readers of this column know that, for over 20 years, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has been a top critic of HSR. While examples of government waste by California politicians and bureaucrats are legion, nothing beats HSR for wasting billions for a project that wasn't even half-baked at inception.

Just a few weeks ago, I wrote about the study we commissioned even before the original bond vote in 2008. In conjunction with transportation experts at the Reason Foundation, the study confirmed our worst fears: "The CHSRA (California High-Speed Rail Authority) plans as currently proposed are likely to have very little relationship to what would eventually be built due to questionable ridership projections and cost assumptions, overly optimistic projections of ridership diversion from other modes of transport, insufficient attention to potential speed restrictions and safety issues and discounting of potential community or political opposition. Further, the system's environmental benefits have been grossly exaggerated, especially

with respect to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that have been associated with climate change."

While much of the criticism of HSR has come from inside California, the project's horrible reputation is gaining national attention. During the first half of President Donald Trump's first term, when Republicans controlled the House of Representatives, federal funding of the project was suspended. But with President Joe Biden's election in 2020, the money spigot opened like a gusher.

It is now more than likely that federal funding for California's rail project will be severely restricted if not shut off entirely. My previous column noted that HSR was garnering the attention of the DOGE project. Recent reporting in the last couple of weeks has more than confirmed that DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency, has indeed put the high-speed rail project very high on its list of programs to eliminate to save taxpayer dollars.

To make matters worse, a report issued just last week by the Office of Inspector General for California High-Speed Rail concluded that even more delays are likely. The report was titled, "Merced to Bakersfield Segment: The Authority is Unlikely to Complete the Segment as Currently Envisioned within Its Planned Schedule." Other critiques in the report include the fact that, "The Authority has not maintained the procurement timeline it established to meet the M-B schedule."

Also last week, the IG report was cited by nationally recognized legal commentator, Jonathan

Turley, who reported that "it now looks like one of the most wasteful, run-away public works projects in the country could be on the chopping block: California's high-speed rail project. The project to build a bullet train from Los Angeles to Sacramento is an outrageous example of a public work that lacked any fiscal responsibility or oversight from the state government. Nevertheless, Democrats continue to push for billions more from the federal government as well as California taxpayers."

Turley notes that unspent funds would be an easy target for a federal clawback: "There is currently \$4.3 billion in unspent federal funds for California's high-speed rail project, and Trump should seek to claw back the money in light of the gross negligence shown by the California authorities."

The national attention focused on HSR, the DOGE effort, and congressional hostility led by California's own Congressman Kevin Kiley, increasingly suggest that the federal funds keeping HSR alive may finally be turned off. While that day can't come soon enough, will it be enough to kill the project?

California taxpayers will be watching to see if HSR's special interest supporters try to repurpose other state funds to keep the high-speed rail project on life support. At a minimum, continued funding from any source should be subject to a statewide vote. But because we can all predict what the outcome of that vote would be, we are unlikely to ever get the opportunity.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. ★

The Brownsville Bailinick & Beyond

I wonder if the shopping habits of today will be affected by the suggestion that we buy locally, not through businesses owned by large corporations. Many of us are just frustrated by what we hear in the news. It is true that some changes needed to be made and no one wants fraud, graft and more, but the huge changes that have come through cause alarm.

The next community breakfast will be on March 9, the second Sunday of the month. We have decided to leave the "Decorating Tree" up for awhile and will redecorate it each month for the season. We noticed that several businesses in town, Golden Pacific Bank for one, does this. Two reasons, perhaps: one is storage and the other is that it might be fun to try. Come to Stone Soup some week and see how we are doing. A great lunch of soup,

salad and more each Thursday at noon at the community center in Brownsville.

I have seen the daffodils blooming in our area. They "think" it is spring, but I feel we have not had winter. There have been lots of rainy days, several inches at times, but not the cold that brings snow. I remember the huge snows we had in February many years ago and they were even greater in the past. Grace Bowers told me about the snow rides they took in Dobbins many years ago. I guess it may be due to global warming.

Look Back in Time - In 1901 a severe thunder storm hit Dobbins; lightning destroyed instruments in the telephone office (I hope we don't get a hard storm like that).

Hope to see you in Brownsville soon.
~ Yvonne



Podcast Discusses Building Relationships with New Lawmakers

On the Voice of California Agriculture podcast, California Farm Bureau Director of Policy Advocacy Matthew Viohl spoke with host Gary Sack about developing relationships with new federal lawmakers. For example, Viohl said, Sen. Adam Schiff, D-CA, shares an interest in immigration and insurance issues with California farmers. "Those are good areas to open a conversation, sharing that these are important issues to us as well," Viohl said. The podcast episode also discusses new Workplace Violence Prevention standards on California farms and the inspiring work of state FFA leaders.

Broadcast Journalist Talks About Covering Central Valley Agriculture

Revered TV reporter Dale Yurong has worked for ABC30 in Fresno, where he is now an anchor, since his college graduation in 1983. Yurong covers Central Valley agriculture in regular segments called "Ag Watch." He also hosts "Valley Grown," a 30-minute agriculture-focused special that runs quarterly, and a weekly "Dine and Dish" segment about local restaurants. Yurong spoke with California Bountiful Magazine, which is published by California Farm Bureau, about covering

food and farming in the Central Valley.

California Bountiful TV Explores the Flavors of the State's Agriculture

In its latest episode, California Bountiful TV explores agricultural and culinary landmarks across the state. Host Aubrey Aquino visits a mandarin farm in Placer County, a citrus fruit upcycling facility in Tulare County and the Mezzetta food processing company's headquarters in Napa County. Aquino also enjoys tuna pizza and salmon from Morimoto restaurant in Napa. The show is produced by California Farm Bureau.

ICYMI: State to Revisit Ban on Driverless Tractors

During the past half-century, the emergence of new agricultural technology such as aerial drones, autonomous tractors and other equipment has changed the way crops around the world are planted, cared for and harvested. But in California, a regulation from the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, or Cal/OSHA, dating to 1977, has prohibited the use of autonomous agricultural equipment without a driver at the helm. After years of advocacy from farm groups, the agency's standards board has empaneled an advisory committee to examine the regulation, signaling it may consider revising it. ★

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Los Angeles Wildfires Intensify Political Jousting Over Home Insurance Premiums



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

The timing could not have been better — or worse.

The horrendously destructive and deadly Los Angeles wildfires erupted in January just as Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara's historic and very controversial overhaul of how insurers calculate premiums was taking effect.

On one hand, the disaster drove home the insurance industry's contention that California's propensity for such catastrophes creates immense potential losses that cannot be profitably insured without changes in the rate-making system.

However as fire victims inundated insurers with claims, Lara faced pressure to crack down on companies that minimized or delayed settlement payments. Meanwhile, his critics accuse him of being too cozy with the industry he regulates, as a Los Angeles Times article detailed this week.

It is, to put it mildly, a yeasty situation.

Lara, a former state legislator who was elected as insurance commissioner in 2018, began drafting his new regulatory plan in response to decisions by major insurers to cut back on policies in California — or even leave the state altogether — because of seemingly endless waves of destructive wildfires.

They contended that California's long-standing system for calculating premiums, basing them on past experiences, was inadequate. They wanted to include estimates of future exposure, and the costs of obtaining reinsurance to ease their losses, in the process.

Lara incorporated those changes in his plan, but only if insurers were more willing to write policies in fire-prone regions.

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

It drew sharp criticism from Consumer Watchdog, the Southern California organization that wrote the 1988 ballot measure making the insurance commissioner's position elective and increasing regulatory powers. The group had been sniping at Lara ever since his election, accusing him of taking campaign money from insurers and not aggressively overseeing their operations.

The group had benefited handsomely from "intervenor fees" in rate-making cases awarded by previous commissioners. Lara has been less generous, although the organization got \$643,530 in 2024, 100% of the year's awards.

The Los Angeles fires have forced Lara to juggle his long-term efforts to stabilize the insurance market with immediate responses to issues

arising from the disaster.

Lara authorized insurers to impose assessments on their policyholders to shore up the shaky finances of California's FAIR plan, a last-ditch system that covers property owners unable to get coverage from the regular market that has seen a huge increase in applications.

However, he refused to immediately approve a request by State Farm, California's largest insurer, for a 22% emergency rate hike, saying the company had to prove a need.

If nothing else, the Los Angeles fires underscored the absolutely vital role of a healthy insurance market — not only in protecting the investments that Californians have in their homes and businesses, but as a key component in buying and selling of real estate. Lenders simply will not issue mortgages for property that is uninsured.

The insurance commissioner must, of course, protect the interests of consumers, but one of those interests is a healthy insurance market, and a parallel duty is making insurance profitable enough to keep insurers willing to do business in California.

Whether Lara's rate-making overhaul will fulfill both of those imperatives remains uncertain. He at least deserves credit for trying to fix a dysfunctional system after the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom bowed out and gave him the task.

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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Marc Cuniberti hosts "Money Matters" on KVMR 89.5 FM Thursdays at Noon. Visit his website at www.moneymanagementradio.com

DOGE and Inflation

For the last few months I have been detailing in various Money Matters articles how, in my opinion, no matter who was elected President, he or she would not be able to fulfill their promise of harnessing inflation. I have not altered my prognostication.

The reason we have such bad inflation is because of fiscal and monetary policy. Monetary policy simply means the amount of money created (printed) by those that control such things. In the case of the U.S. and indeed the entire civilized world, the central banks are responsible for printing up money. Here in the U.S., the central bank is the Federal Reserve (FED).

Needless to say, all the central banks of the world find it an easy task to fire up the printing presses anytime the governments they are beholden to require more money to spend on whatever is they see fit to spend money on. Simply put, spending money makes everybody happy and keeps elected officials in office. A long time ago, most governments knew that printing up fresh money to helicopter drop on their constituents would eventually lead to inflation. Being correct in their assumption, the conversations to keep money creation to a reasonable minimum were ongoing. Over time, those discussions went by the way side and the printing presses were shifted into overdrive to address any and all economic and market upsets.

Corporate bailouts and consumer subsidies became the norm and the printing presses ran hog wild for decades.

Enter CoVid and the subsequent shutdowns and a tsunami of new money was showered down upon the world to soften the blow.

Eventually the inflation many warned about that would be caused by printing up gobs of new money caught fire driven by the tsunami of CoVid cash. Now we find ourselves in quite the pickle. This is monetary inflation.

Although monetary policy is the actual creation of cash, the fiscal part of the equation is the spending of that money by government, along with tax policies, subsidies, tariffs, and other actions by government that distribute or redistribute where all that fresh cash ends up.

Although various actions and programs to address inflation by government have been implemented, most of those policies have actually been just more spending.

In my previous articles I have detailed that to address inflation, the powers at be must curtail spending, rein in credit

and basically crush demand. That "crushing of demand" would essentially mean crushing the consumer. Because crushing the consumer would result in massive economic pain on many fronts, my reasoning was whoever was in charge would not be able to accomplish enough cutbacks to make a serious dent in inflation.

Enter DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency, the new advisory body tasked with essentially finding and eliminating government waste. Only in business a few weeks, the complaints and protests about proposed spending cuts are already on the rise.

Enter the pain part of the solving of inflation equation. Now comes the tug of war between those that want to cut, and those that don't want to be cut.

Not casting a vote in either direction mind you, the first part of my previous discussions on why inflation won't be harnessed come to fruition.

Simply put, many of the cuts proposed by DOGE and the new administration are already being challenged in court.

Ya, I get it. Cutting back on programs, subsidies, employees and the like is not going to be pleasant. There will be pain.

But in my opinion, to harness the inflation we now have would be to take the proposed reductions and times that by 100.

Don't shoot the messenger. 50 years of economic study tells me there is no other way. But those same 50 years of being a human tells me it's never going to happen.

Fret not half of you. The spending cuts are going to hurt, but they won't hurt enough to slow the rate of inflation down significantly, let alone bring prices down.

To do that would take unimaginable cutbacks across many fronts.

And like I said, that is simply not going to be allowed to happen.

"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 ★



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I just finished paying off my credit card bills from last Christmas, and I've made a resolution that it's the last time I'm going into debt for the holidays. With that in mind, how do you feel about using layaway programs when it comes to buying Christmas gifts, instead of putting purchases on credit cards?

— Marty

Dear Marty,

Here's a good rule of thumb for pretty much all spending, not just Christmas gifts. If you can't buy it with cash up front, you can't afford it. The only thing I generally give folks a little wiggle room on is when it comes to buying a house. Very few people have enough money set aside to write a check for a home.

Now, sometimes there might be cases when certain popular items are on sale, and you can set them

Dave Ramsey Says

It's Not the Answer

aside through layaway if you don't have cash at the moment. I don't have a huge problem with this sort of thing, as long as it's not habitual behavior. But in general, I'm not a big fan of layaway programs. I know they seem harmless to most folks, but some stores attach hidden fees and other "gotchas" to their layaway programs. On top of that, they're not the best answer to the problem of running up a mountain of debt at Christmas.

Think about it. Christmas comes at the same time every year, right? I mean, it's not like it sneaks up on you. So, wouldn't it be a better to start living on a written budget, and saving up money for Christmas ahead of time? Set aside a little bit each month leading up to December, and by the time Christmas 2025 rolls around, you'll have a big pile of cash just waiting to be turned into Christmas gifts. And the best part? No financial hangover in January and

February from all the debt you piled up.

So, if you're not already doing this, Marty, I want you to start living on a budget. Give every dollar you bring in a job to do, on paper, before the upcoming month begins. Include Christmas spending in your budget, too.

And always remember, Christmas is about God's love for us. Not about impressing people by spending money you don't have!

— 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. ★

The Evolution of Dating



By Kathy Craig Harteis

Back in the early 2000's, when I was suddenly single I got a lot of dating advice.

One friend told me to go grocery shopping at an upscale market at 11:30 am on Sunday. According to her advice a number of older single men who could afford the market's prices shopped there at that time.

It was a good plan especially for me. I know a thing or two about food preparation.

I never tested the plan's

validity though. Instead by then I met Tom online.

I hear today that people have tons of options to meet. The dating apps still exists but there also numbers of options out there to meet face to face without commitment.

I even saw a news story about how to connect with people face to face.

If you're looking to meet your match, you can try places like online dating apps, but local coffee shops, dog parks, fitness classes, volunteer organizations, community events, hiking clubs, church groups, or hobby-related groups where you can connect with people who share similar interests as you. If you're really desperate and don't mind playing a role you can always go to a home building store and look confused. Men like to save a woman in distress.

Don't forget high end grocery markets.

Back in the day we waited for the phone to ring and a boy to actually talk to us and ask for a date. Today, texts asking to hang out is the norm.

Not to mention there were very few private conversations. The one phone in most houses was sitting in a common area. No secret calls in the 60's.

Those days were fun but I'm happy not to have to relive them.

Old and married; 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. ★

LaMalfa Announces the 2025 Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Doug LaMalfa News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)

- Feb. 19, Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) announced that the 2025 Congressional Art

Competition is now open to all high school students in the 1st District. This year's theme is "California Gold". Competition guidelines and additional information can be found on the Congressman's website. The

deadline to apply is Friday, April 25.

The overall winning artwork will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol along with other contest winners*

"I'm pleased to

announce that this year's Congressional Art Competition is now open, with the theme 'California Gold.' This competition gives talented young artists a chance to showcase their work on a national

stage and brings a piece of Northern California to the halls of the U.S. Capitol. I look forward to seeing all the incredible submissions," said Rep. LaMalfa.

Congressman Doug LaMalfa is Chairman of

the Congressional Western Caucus and a lifelong farmer representing California's First Congressional District, including Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba Counties.



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ACROSS

- Mrs. in Germany
- *Nae Nae's partner
- m in F = ma
- Deadly sin
- Hindu serpent deity
- Blood line
- State location of Miami University
- Last word on radio
- Best friend quality
- *Sideways dance step
- Buzzing pest
- "That is" in Latin
- Corvine bird's sound
- Omicron or Delta, e.g.
- Verb derived from "wreat"
- Although, for short
- Demijohn
- Kings of ____ band
- Act against
- Bruin legend Bobby
- Southern cuisine pods
- Cold war initials
- Transmitted radio signal
- French vineyard
- Strong suits
- Overnight flight
- Like a dancer in The Royal Ballet company
- Polynesian island country
- Dracula's bane
- *Dancer's gardening tool simulation
- Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
- Eon, alt. sp.
- Reminiscent of certain hardwood, to sommelier
- In a tilted position
- Flower holder
- Cartoon lightbulb
- Police informer
- Before, poetically
- Koppel and Turner, e.g.
- Lingerie staple
- *Serena Williams' Super Bowl LIX move (2 words)
- Theater, to Socrates
- Sis' sibling
- King's mantle fur
- Painter Max or Director Lubitsch
- Armed gang member in India
- Asparagus unit
- What phoenix did
- Numbers
- Gulf V.I.P.
- *"Keep this information" button
- Place a load on
- Augmented
- Swedish shag rugs
- *Running ____

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Death Notices

PAZ – Maria Paz, 75, of Yuba City, passed away February 14, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

GRAHAM – James Graham, 78, of Yuba City, passed away February 17, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

ALLMAN – Karen Allman, 83, of Yuba City, passed away February 20, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

STEWART – Obie Stewart, 79, of Marysville, passed away February 22, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

SMITH – Linda Smith, 83, of Marysville, passed away February 22, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

HARRISON – Jerry Harrison, 82, of Yuba City, passed away February 22, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

COCHRAN – William “Don” Cochran, 92, of Yuba City, passed away February 24, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The stretch drive has begun in earnest and the new version of the Sacramento Kings is front and center. Take a long look, because what you see assembled is largely what you'll see for the remainder of the season.

The question on the minds of every fan is whether we are better or worse after the consummation of the DeAaron Fox trade.

Many fans and pundits have focused on DeAaron's attributes as a scorer and distributor, but many never gave him credit for being the defender that he is. Already the Kings are having difficulty replacing Fox on the offensive end, and turnovers are markedly up since his departure.

This is partly due to players taking on new roles, and Malik Monk has struggled to some degree moving from his natural position as a 2-guard to running the point. Part of the problem is the increased energy it takes to be the primary ball handler and distributor on offense. Malik is capable of running the point, but with the addition of Markelle Fultz, and rookie Devin Carter coming off the bench, it may be possible for Malik to assume his natural place as the 2-guard.

Without question Fultz is a mystery, but a fully healthy Markelle Fultz may surprise Kings fans, and perhaps make people remember that he was the overall No.1 pick in the 2017 draft. Yes, the very same draft in which the Sacramento Kings drafted DeAaron Fox in the fifth spot.

No one wants to hear that this new assembly needs time to gel, but in reality, it will take several games before coach Christie will have a better understanding of his new talent.

So, with less than 30 games to go, and every game becoming more and more meaningful, what are the keys to Kings making the playoffs this year.

No. 1, know the talent on your team. Sounds simple, but are the right players coming off the bench every game?

Newcomer Jake LaRavia has been eating up minutes but has had little to show. In the game against the Warriors LaRavia clocked 16 minutes and scored

0 points and 0 assists. That simply can't happen. At 6'7" Jake is another tweener, and what the Kings need is someone to compliment Domantas Sabonis with post defense and rebounding help.

Sitting idly on the bench is 6'9" Isaac Jones, who at 245 pounds has a wing span of 7'3". Just in his rookie season, the Kings have yet to fully see what Jones can bring to the table. When sent to G-league he played like a man among boys, but coach Christie has been reluctant to give this big man any meaningful minutes.

This writer would much rather see an athletic Isaac Jones logging minutes than Jake LaRavia, who is largely just taking up space.

It's time to stop experimenting and stick with a rotation that can produce on both ends of the floor.

Although it's early, I believe newcomer Markelle Fultz can run the point and allow Malik to fill the 2-guard spot where he's more comfortable.

The 2nd key to making the playoffs is that individual players need to step up and play the way they can play. We have yet to see the best of Zach LaVine, and not to be left out, Keegan Murray simply needs to shoot the ball better. We know he's capable, but his lack of consistent offense leaves us wondering what's wrong. Murray needs to look for his shot and not fear shooting it.

Monday night's game against the Charlotte Hornets will give fans a better barometer as to where the Kings are, but without a doubt, LaVine and Murray are key players that can make an appreciable difference, and I want to see both of these players step up and make a statement.

Keep your eye on bench rotations, and especially who is bringing the ball down-court. I'm a huge fan of Malik Monk, but I want to see him used where he benefits the team the most.

Stay tuned Kings fans. A lot can happen in a ten-game stretch, so let's see where we are after the next 10 games.

All the best!

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



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Live Oak Girls Basketball Ousted from Playoffs



Live Oak's Larysa Myers directs the offense in the Lions' first round playoff game against Pierce on Feb. 18.

**Story and photos
by Jennifer Corriea**

ARBUCKLE, CA (MPG) - Coming off its Valentine's Day victory over Corning in the regular season finale, the Live Oak girls' basketball team couldn't carry that momentum forward. As a result, the team fell 26-58 to No. 5 seeded Pierce High School in the first round of the Northern Section CIF Division IV playoffs in a Feb. 18 game.

A squad of which half are underclassmen, the No. 12 seeded Lions put forth a spirited effort but simply lacked the experience of the Bears and as a result saw their season come to an end.

Playing in her last game for the purple and gold, Sandra Janda scored a team-high eight points, while sophomore Rhyen Bidasha and freshman Meredith Bole dropped in seven apiece.

Live Oak finished the season as the sixth-place team in the Butte View League.

With the victory, the Pierce High School Bears moved on in the Northern Section CIF Division IV playoffs to face the West Valley High Eagles, in Cottonwood on Feb. 20. Unfortunately, the Bears fell to the Eagles by a final score of 51-41, ending the Bear's season. ★



The Lions' Rhyen Bidasha drives past Pierce's Rylie Delepierre in No. 12 Live Oak's NSCIF D4 playoff loss to No. 5 Pierce.



Live Oak senior Sandra Janda shoots for two of her eight points during the Lions' NSCIF D4 playoff game in Arbutle on Feb. 18.



Live Oak's Maneet Dosanja (2) and Jiya Rai (11) defend against Pierce's Magali Jauregui in a NSCIF D4 playoff game played in Arbutle on Feb. 18.

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DANNY JOSEPH THOMPSON Case NO. PRPB25-00020

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of **Danny Joseph Thompson**.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Brenda Lee in the Superior Court of California, County of: Yuba

The Petition for Probate requests that: Brenda Lee 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: 3/17/2025 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: Sheldon C. Hadley
230 5th Street, Marysville, CA 95901
Phone No.: 530-743-4455

**PUBLISHED IN THE TERRITORIAL DISPATCH:
February 28, March 7, 14, 2025**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plumas Lake Self Storage 3000 Plumas Arboga Rd., Plumas Lake, CA 95961 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.

Auction will be conducted **online at Bid13.com**, starting March 08, 2025, ending March 18, 2025, at 8:00 am. Property to be sold as follows: misc. household goods, personal items, misc. furniture, misc. boxes, misc. tools, etc. belonging to the following:

Toni Abrahamian & Erika Friend
Taylor Augustin
Patricia Eugene
Keshia Lee
Michael Malson
Beau Riddles

All purchased items are sold AS IS, WHERE IS. Payments must be made in CASH. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. (TD) 2-28, 3-7, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025F-036

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
United Clothing Designz
2081 Babcock Way
Plumas Lake, CA 95961
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Joseph Jiron
2081 Babcock Way
Plumas Lake, CA 95961
This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Joseph Jiron
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 31, 2025.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By SARAH MULL,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025F-016

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

FAITHFUL FINDS,
2154 BUTLER DR
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901
YUBA COUNTY
WAYNE HUNTER
2154 BUTLER DR
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901
This business is conducted by INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on NOT APPLICABLE.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed: **WAYNE HUNTER**
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba on JAN 14, 2025, indicated by file stamp.

(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
2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28/25
CNS-3891375#
TERRITORIAL DISPATCH

Notice of Public On line Storage Auction

Notice is hereby given that North Beale Mini Storage 5987 Redburn Ave. Marysville, CA 95901 intends to sell the personal property 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.

The Auction will be conducted online at www.bid13.com, starting Friday, February 28, 2025, at 10 am ending Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 10 am. If there are no bidders, the property will be donated or disposed of accordingly. Buyer of unit needs to pay at: Erle Road Self Storage 5600 Lindhurst Ave. Marysville, CA 95901

Name: Brandon Allen Jessi Clayton
Cindy L. Messenger

All purchased items sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and must be paid for and removed within 72 hours of the end of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. 530-634-9781 (TD) 2/28/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025F-052

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Atelier Aurel
12797 Josselyn Hill
Oregon House, CA 95962
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 59
Oregon House, CA 95962
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Maria Billings-Lowry
PO Box 59
Oregon House, CA 95962
Peter F. Lowry
PO Box 59
Oregon House, CA 95962
This business is conducted by a Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/02/2015.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Maria Billings-Lowry
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on February 13, 2025.

(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
Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025F-060

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Hot Za Pizza
13375 Rue Montaign
Oregon House, CA 95962
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 115
Oregon House, CA 95962
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Tristan Winks
13375 Rue Montaign
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 N/A5.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Tristan Winks
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on February 21, 2025.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By SARAH MULL,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 2025

Replenishing California's Groundwater is Painfully Slow

By Alastair Bland,
CalMatters.org

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - After abundant rain and moderate snowfall this year in the northern half of the state, California's largest reservoirs are holding more than 120% of their historical average. But underground, the state's supply of water for drinking and irrigating crops remains depleted.

Even after multiple wet winters, and despite a state law that's supposed to protect and restore the state's precious groundwater, thousands of wells — mostly in rural, low-income communities in the San Joaquin Valley — have gone dry because of over-pumping by growers.

So why hasn't the recent bounty of rain and snow replenished the state's underground supplies?

The Newsom administration has been pushing for more groundwater storage and investing hundreds of millions of dollars in solutions, but most storm-water flows into the ocean. Some of this is intentional — the water has to be routed quickly away from communities to prevent flooding, while some supports aquatic ecosystems, including endangered salmon.

But millions of acre feet escape every year because there is no statewide system of pumps, pipelines and ponds to capture it and let it sink into the ground.

Replenishing aquifers isn't easy. It can require building new canals or pipelines to divert flood waters into permeable basins that are miles from major rivers. In some cases, growers would have to build berms to contain water as it soaks into the Earth.

All these features cost money and take time to build so progress has been slow. Recharge itself can be a painfully slow process, often just inches per day. As a result, even exceptionally wet years like 2017 and 2023 only briefly paused depletion of drinking water wells.

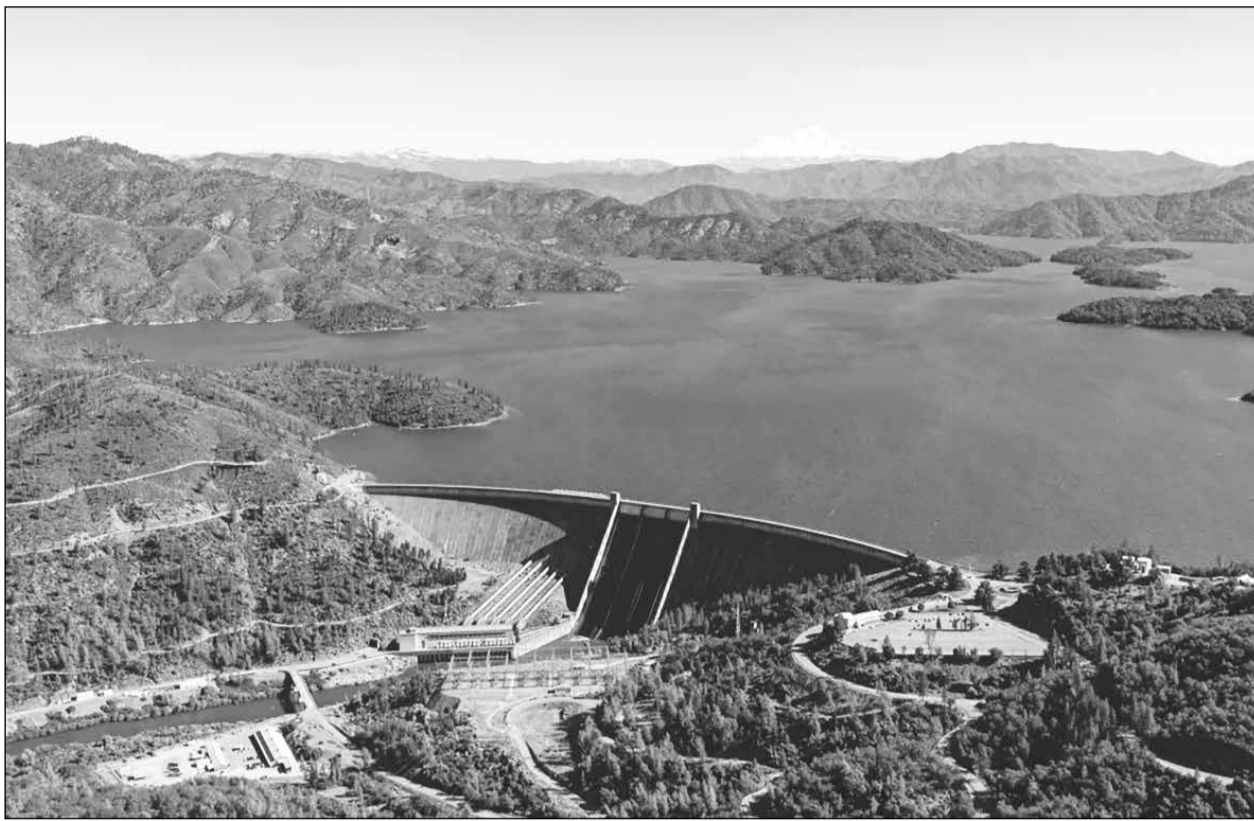
"Long-term groundwater storage remains in a deficit from years of pumping more than what has been replenished," according to the state's 2024 semi-annual update on groundwater conditions.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has long vowed to enhance groundwater replenishment. In his 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio, the governor said he would "explore ways to further streamline groundwater recharge." Then, in his 2022 Water Supply Strategy, he promised to increase average recharge by half a million acre-feet a year. (An acre-foot of water is enough to submerge one acre of land a foot deep.)

The effort has had some success. In 2023, San Joaquin Valley farmers sank 7.6 million acre-feet of water into the ground, compared to 6.5 million in 2017, another wet year, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

However, "it's safe to say that very little, if any, recharge happened in 2020 to 2022 as these were some of the driest years on record in many parts of the state," said Caitlin Peterson, a research fellow at the institute.

The Los Angeles region's water table is dropping, with only sluggish recovery after 2023's heavy rains, according to a Stanford University



An aerial view of Lake Shasta, the state's largest reservoir, on May 9, 2024, when its storage was 96% of capacity. Photo by Sara Nevis, State Department of Water Resources.

study published early this month. "Only about 25% of the groundwater lost since 2006 was restored," the study says. "Wet winters do not compensate for the substantial depletion during dry years."

Even the extraordinary wet year of 2023 had missed opportunities.

That year, the state issued permits to landowners allowing more than 600,000 acre-feet of water to be diverted from the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins for recharging groundwater during floods. But because some landowners received their permits too late in the rainy season and they were required to install costly fish screens to protect salmon, the program only resulted in about 20,000 acre-feet of recharge, according to the Department of Water Resources.

"We haven't reached our full potential in California for groundwater recharge," said Helen Dahlke, a UC Davis professor of integrated hydrologic sciences. "We're still tinkering around with small numbers."

Farmers taking action to capture groundwater

Since he began farming more than 40 years ago, Don Cameron has watched the groundwater beneath his ranch near Fresno drop a half-foot to a foot every year. In total, the water table has dropped at least 30 feet.

So he decided to take action to replenish his aquifer. He has been flooding his fields and orchards since 2011 to let that water trickle underground.

Cameron has installed several miles of canals, along with headgates and pump systems, to bring more water to his Terranova Ranch from the Kings River during floods. He used earth excavated from the canals to enclose several active farmfields, forming 350 acres of recharge basins.

Though he was assisted with a \$5 million state grant, he spent about \$13 million total, he said. He finished in 2020, in the midst of the last drought.

"Then we waited for a flood," he said.

It came in 2023, and that wet winter his recharge system helped draw the water table up 15 feet.

He would like to see managed recharge projects like his own replicated statewide.

"We know that groundwater recharge works and increases aquifer resilience," he said. "If we had better infrastructure to do it, we could really put a lot more water underground."

But not all landowners will invest in these projects. That's because the water that sinks below one person's farm becomes available for others to pump. Without a detailed accounting and crediting system, farmers don't necessarily get back what they invest.

"When someone recharges, they're mainly benefitting their neighbors," said Graham Fogg, a UC Davis professor emeritus of hydrogeology. "The recharge is local, but the benefits are regional."

Cameron, for all his investments, knows this.

"The water I put in the ground does not have my name on it," he said.

To address this problem, some irrigation agencies have developed accounting systems that credit farmers who help sink water into a region's basin.

On the Central Coast, for example, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency uses "recharge net metering" that provides rebates to landowners based on how much water passes through their metered percolation system.

In the Tulare Irrigation District, groundwater managers similarly credit farmers who use their land for recharge, so that they are entitled to most of that water later.

California invests millions in replenishing groundwater

As a pattern of wetter wet periods and drier droughts develops in the West, California water managers, anticipating a 10% decline in water supply by the 2040s, are increasingly concerned with capturing water when it's available.

The governor waived environmental restrictions in 2023 with a series of executive orders aimed at facilitating groundwater recharge. Early that summer, the governor and Legislature codified some of these regulatory easements into a new law.

Since 2018, the Department of Water Resources has directed more than \$121 million to at least 69 recharge projects.

Paul Gosselin, the department's director of sustainable water management, said the efforts are working. Newsom's 2023 orders allowed farmers to divert more than 400,000 acre-feet of water for recharge that otherwise would have flowed directly to the ocean, he said.

Between 2023 and 2024, Westlands Water District recharged almost 400,000 acre-feet. The Tulare Irrigation District recharged about 200,000

acre-feet, "a record-breaking year for us," said General Manager Aaron Fukuda.

Sarah Woolf, a San Joaquin Valley farmer and president of the agricultural consulting firm Water Wise, said the governor's order in 2023 to capture more water underground was a sign that "we've done nothing to support recharge" since the state's groundwater law passed in 2014. Woolf said there has been "still no real resolution from the state board on this recharge issue."

A more recent order issued by Newsom in January directed state officials to remove or minimize barriers "that would hinder efforts to maximize diversions to storage of excess flows."

While Newsom's executive orders appeased farmers, they reduced Delta river flows, potentially harming endangered salmon, sturgeon and smelt. "This outflow of freshwater might seem like excess water to some but it's not excess to the environment, and it's absolutely critical to this ecosystem that is on the brink of collapse," said Ashley Overhouse, water policy advisor with Defenders of Wildlife.

Thousands of dried-up wells

Recent groundwater gains have not undone the decades of unregulated groundwater pumping, especially in disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

So much groundwater there has been pumped to irrigate orchards that the Earth has collapsed, subsiding almost 30 feet near Mendota last century, for example, as the water table has dropped. In the past two decades, subsidence has accelerated, with much of the valley floor plunging

at a geologic freefall pace of a foot per year.

Even in 2023, groundwater managers in the San Joaquin Valley reported drawing 5.4 million acre-feet from the ground, mostly offsetting the total amount that was recharged.

Consequently, thousands of residents reliant on groundwater have reported drinking water wells drying out, especially in 2014-2015 and 2021-2022, all years of extreme drought.

State officials received about 700 reports of dry wells over the past two years, and a state database shows that more than 200 wells — many in the San Joaquin Valley — stand at all-time low levels. Eight dry household wells were reported in the San Joaquin Valley in the last 30 days alone.

During wetter periods, the number of dry wells reported tends to slow down. However, activists in the region say there has been little to no recovery of dewatered wells, forcing communities to find solutions.

"A lot of people have been relying on bottled and hauled water, and they've also committed a lot of money to digging deeper wells," said Tien Tran, policy manager with the Community Water Center, an advocacy group that works in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast, another region with depleted groundwater.

In downtown San Jose, groundwater overdraft has led to 13 feet of permanent subsidence, according to Cindy Kao, the Santa Clara Valley Water District's imported water manager.

"Our county's demands began outstripping our local groundwater supplies more than 100 years ago," Kao said at a state water board hearing on Feb. 18.

Like other water supply

advocates who spoke that day, Kao supported Newsom's proposed \$20 billion Delta tunnel as a means for boosting deliveries of Delta water that is deposited into the local aquifer.

Wade Crowfoot, secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, said water from the tunnel would "recharge groundwater basins in the Central Valley, which is critically important for water supply and implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act."

In the Sonoma Valley, a region heavily pumped by wells to irrigate vineyards, groundwater supplies have trended downward.

Marcus Trotta, principal hydrologist with the Sonoma County Water Agency, said ample rainfall in the last two years muted this effect. "But there's still been a long-term decline, mostly in the deeper aquifer system," he said.

The valley's deeper aquifers are separated from the surface by mostly impermeable clay deposits, Trotta said. This can make recharge of depleted basins almost hopelessly slow.

Room to recharge

As for space to store more water, there is plenty. An estimated 140 million acre-feet of groundwater storage space lies vacant beneath the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys — three times the volume of all the state's surface reservoirs combined.

Fogg, who helped produce that figure, said it was calculated by subtracting the current groundwater in storage from the estimated volume before California's modern development.

One of the biggest bottlenecks to making use of this space is the capacity of conveyance systems.

"We have plenty of farmland for recharge, but the infrastructure to get the water to these places is still evolving," Fogg said.

Agricultural production in California has steadily grown for many decades, now routinely exceeding \$50 billion in gross annual sales. Thirsty nut crops have been so widely planted that prices have crashed from oversupply, and the Central Valley is carpeted with irrigated farms.

Ultimately, ensuring there is adequate groundwater for farms and communities means growers will have to permanently fallow large areas of cropland. Otherwise, Gosselin said groundwater recharge will never keep pace with agricultural demand.

"Farmers are not going to be able to recharge their way out of groundwater depletion," he said. ★



Low water levels at Shasta Lake on April 25, 2022, during a drought year. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



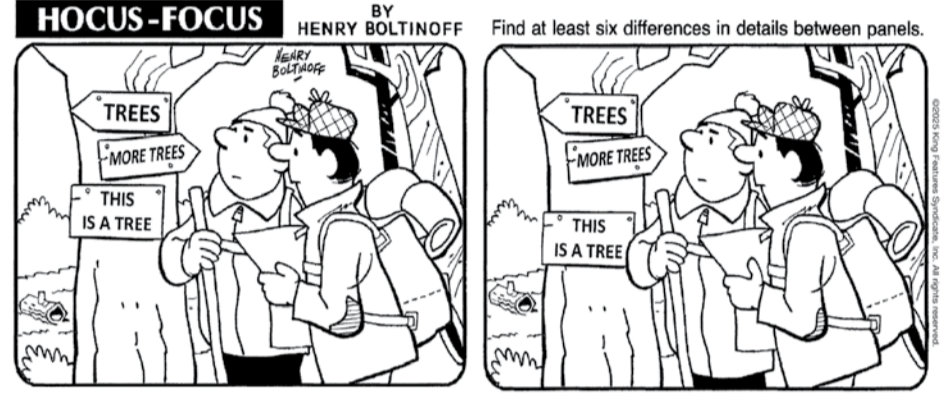
by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



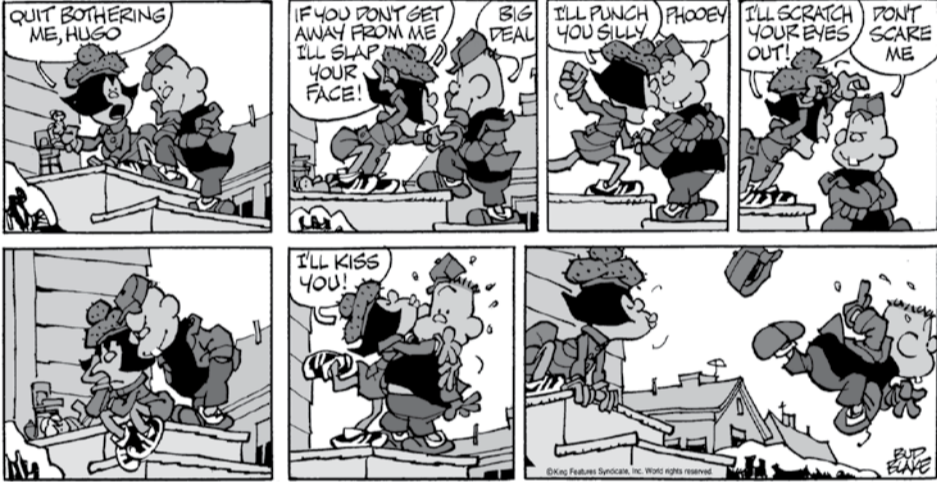
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sign is lower. 2. Log is moved. 3. Flower patch is different. 4. Cap is different. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Jacket is longer.

TIGER



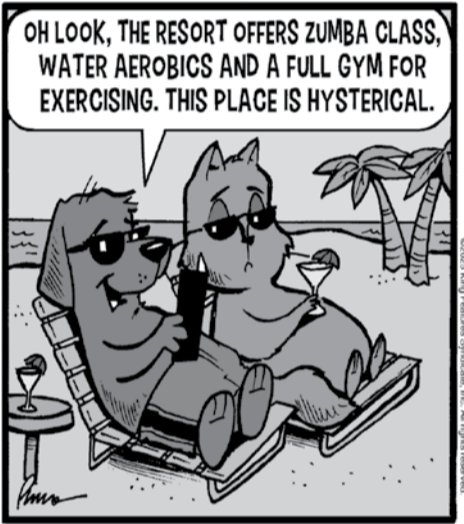
by BUD BLAKE



GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



The Dobbins Certified Farmers Market is Open again starting March 15th Every Saturday, 10 am-2 pm at 9761 Marysville Road, Dobbins.
For vendor info call Teresa McFall 530-635-0452



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The morning show from 6 am to 9 am weekday mornings with Fish informs and entertains with interviews from local business owners, civic leaders, community organizations and everyday people who are making a difference in our great community.

Interviews are at 8:15 a.m. each morning unless noted

- February 28 / 7 am TBD
- February 28 / 8 am Tamera Macy, Sutter County One Stop
- March 3 / 7 am TBD
- March 3 / 8 am Whitney Brim-Deforest, Bi County Farm Advisory
- March 4 / 7 am NHYS - Raising Highly Capable Kids w/Stephanie McKenzie and Oliver Cardenas
- March 4 / 8 am Rachel Abbot, Yuba County
- March 5 / 7 am MJUSD Interview, Stephanie McKinzie
- March 5 / 8 am Chief Sachs, Marysville Police Department
- March 6 / 8 am Hard Rock
- March 7 / 8 am Sutter County P.I.O.

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Celebrate Lincrest Elementary Student Art Show

Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture remains committed to celebrating student artistic achievement at every level. We especially love inviting student artists into our arts centers so that the entire Yuba-Sutter community can experience the remarkable artistic output of our

students. Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture is very pleased to be welcoming back this year, the 4th grade students of Lincrest Elementary School to the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts. The Clark Family Black Box Theater will be converted into a walk-through art gallery for the evening. Lincrest teacher, Lisa Abolt, is once again taking the lead for this year's

student art exhibit. The free reception will be held on Wednesday, March 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street in Yuba City. Refreshments will be served. Although few of our local elementary schools offer arts classes, we are thankful to Lisa and her team who are the exception to the rule, for nurturing these aspiring art students and taking them to the next level.

Last year's art show featuring Lincrest Elementary students' artwork was truly remarkable. It was great to see what one group of elementary school teachers has done to elevate the value of arts education for younger students. Student art shows help celebrate a whole new generation of artists and give students a forum for a public exhibition of their work. Their pride is evident as student artists show off their work to their families and friends in the context of a public gallery environment. Art encourages self-expression, helping children communicate emotions and ideas in ways words cannot. It also fosters creativity, imagination, and critical thinking, essential skills for academic and personal growth.

Exposure to visual arts builds cultural awareness and teaches appreciation for diverse perspectives while boosting confidence and resilience. A big part of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture's mission is to promote exposure to the arts and to support arts education for youth in our community. Be prepared to see and experience eye opening and breath-taking student achievement in the arts inspired by the greats including Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keefe, Wayne Thiebaud, and many others.

There is plenty of free street parking and in the adjacent parking lots. Write to david@yubasutterarts.org for more information.

Yuba Sutter Arts is a non-profit organization whose mission is to



The free reception will be held on Wednesday, March 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

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, Convergence Theater Company, Center Stage Productions, the Yuba Sutter Big Band, Harvest the Arts and many more. ★



Student art shows help celebrate a whole new generation of artists. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture



Last year's art show featuring Lincrest Elementary students' artwork. Photo courtesy of Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

Lake Oroville Capacity at 82%

California Department of Water Resources News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) continues federally required flood control releases from Lake Oroville to maintain flood protection for downstream communities. Water is being released through the Hyatt Powerplant for energy production and from Oroville Dam's main spillway. With lessening storms and reduced inflows into Lake Oroville, Department of Water Resources has decreased total Feather River flood control releases to 17,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases are subject to change based on ongoing weather conditions.

Between October and June, the Department of Water Resources is required to operate Lake Oroville for flood control under federal Water Control Manual guidelines set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These federal regulations establish a set storage space that is reserved to capture inflows from rain and future snowmelt, while protecting downstream communities from damaging flood events through coordinated releases. To maintain this storage space, DWR is required to release water from Lake Oroville.

Releases to the Feather River are coordinated closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other downstream water operators. Feather River recreation users are advised to remain alert as river flows are expected to be swift and cold and may change based on projected weather forecasts.

The information below reflects current reservoir level estimates. Forecasts can change quickly and may affect the estimates provided.

Current Oroville Reservoir Level: 857 feet elevation
 Current Storage Capacity: 82 percent
 Total Releases to the Feather River: 17,000 cfs; decreasing to 15,000 cfs on Feb. 17 and 14,000 cfs on Feb. 18
 The Lake Oroville reservoir is the largest storage facility in the State Water Project, providing flood protection while supporting environmental and water delivery needs to 27 million Californians. Some water



Here is a drone view of water levels at Bidwell Bar Bridge and Bidwell Canyon Marina at Lake Oroville in Butte County. Photo courtesy of California Department of Water Resources

released from Lake Oroville is distributed locally for agriculture benefits, while the remaining Feather River releases flow south through the State Water Project system to reduce salinity effects in the Delta, provide irrigation for crops in the Central Valley, and eventually make their way to Southern California. Department of Water Resources continues to monitor lake levels, weather forecasts, and mountain snow levels to optimize water storage while allowing for carryover storage into next year.

Within the Oroville-Thermalito Complex, the Department of Water Resources maintains several areas that preserve and enhance wildlife habitat. Encompassed within the Thermalito Afterbay's 17 miles of shoreline and 4,300 surface acres of water are numerous brood ponds that provide prime habitat and breeding areas for waterfowl and giant garter snakes, a protected species. While water levels at the Afterbay may fluctuate based on agriculture and hydropower operations, the Department of Water Resources ensures brood pond habitats remain stable. A flap gate outlet system permits water to flow into brood pond areas, raising water levels while preventing water from being released and maintaining a stable elevation

for waterfowl nests and giant garter snakes. These measures ensure these species continue to thrive, upholding DWR's commitment to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments.

Lake Oroville is one of the State Water Project's premier recreational destinations and one of California's best fishing spots. The lake provides both warm-water and cold-water fisheries, with excellent bass fishing opportunities during the fall and winter months.

To improve fish habitats at Lake Oroville and the Thermalito Afterbay, the Department of Water Resources works with members of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to bundle recycled Christmas trees and anchor them in various locations around the lakebed. Anchoring the trees allows them to remain submerged, providing juvenile fish safe refuge, and improving fisheries and recreational fishing opportunities. Installation of the Christmas tree habitats will occur in the coming weeks.

Driftwood Abatement at Lake Oroville

With a significant increase in runoff into Lake Oroville from recent storm systems, Department of Water Resource's civil maintenance crews have

been patrolling the branches of Lake Oroville to capture floating woody debris before it reaches the main body of the lake. Higher inflows wash woody debris into the reservoir, which can impact water infrastructure and present a hazard to boaters. Over the next few months, Department of Water Resources crews will collect, contain and pull larger pieces of wood out of the lake and away from shoreline areas using boom lines.

Department of Water Resources crews spent a significant amount of time collecting woody debris in Lake Oroville in 2023 and 2024 following heavy storms and high reservoir levels with over 19,000 cubic yards of woody vegetation collected. Floating debris removal ensures continued infrastructure operations and the safety of the recreating public on Lake Oroville. However, boaters and other water recreationists should take precautions when operating watercraft on Lake Oroville and should remain alert for floating debris.

Staffed by knowledgeable guides, the Lake Oroville Visitor Center features interpretive displays on Oroville Dam, area geology, wildlife and habitat, hydroelectric power, and cultural and historical artifacts. View videos in the theater about

the construction of Oroville Dam, walk or hike along nearby trails, and visit the 47-foot-tall observation tower that provides unsurpassed panoramic views of surrounding areas. Free guided tours for school and community groups are available by reservation. Parking and admission to the Visitor Center are free.

The Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) maintain over 92 miles of trails in the Oroville area. An interactive map of recreation facilities, including open trails and their permitted uses (hike, bike, horse, multi), is available on Department of Water Resource's Lake Oroville Recreation webpage. A paper trail map is available at various locations, including most entrance kiosks and the Lake Oroville Visitor Center.

Upstream migrating fish totals through the Feather River Fish Monitoring Station between Jan. 1 and Jan. 29, are:

Fall-run Chinook salmon: 23

Steelhead: 63

Ahead of anticipated increased river flows at the fish monitoring station, monitoring equipment has been removed, which will impact count estimates.

To see previous year data, visit CalFish.org.

Current Lake Operations

Lake Oroville is at 857 feet elevation and storage is approximately 2.8 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 82 percent of its total capacity and 131 percent of the historical average.

Feather River flows are at 7,000 cfs through the City of Oroville with 10,000 cfs being released from the Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet (Outlet) for a total Feather River release of 17,000 cfs downstream. Total Feather River releases will decrease to 15,000 cfs on Feb. 17 and 14,000 cfs on Feb. 18, with flows from the Outlet remaining at 10,000 cfs. Department of Water Resources continues to assess Feather River releases daily.

The public can track precipitation, snow, reservoir levels, and more at the California Data Exchange Center. The Lake Oroville gage station is identified as "ORO." ★