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Creates Memories

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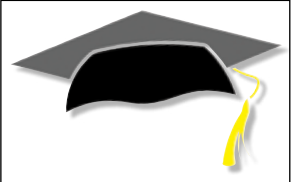
SEE
INSIDE

BEN MOODY IS
LIVE OAK'S NEW
CITY MANAGER



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GRIDLEY HIGH
SCHOOL SENIOR
AWARDS 2025



PAGE 5

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High School Students Rewarded
at Dollars for Scholars Event



From left are Alfonso Martinez, Reese Stevens and Gus Stogsdill, high school seniors, among the California Scholarship Federation Life Members.

Story and photos
by Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley High School seniors were handsomely rewarded inside the Guardian Building of campus during the Dollars for Scholars event on May 29. More than 50 students were

officially recognized for their four years of hard work. Some received numerous scholarships in addition to non-cash recognition awards. Colored cords with tassels were awarded to those who completed the Pathways programs, including Patient Care, Animal Science, Horticulture, Agriscience and Agricultural

Manufacturing. A wide variety of scholarships were presented, ranging from memorials such as the Verda Walton Jensen Memorial Scholarship for Sportsmanship, to service organizations, including Gridley Rotary, Lions, Quota, and Knights of *Continued on page 5*

Gridley
Budget
is Good,
Pineda Says

By Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - After a lengthy budget presentation at the June 2 City Council meeting, Gridley Finance Director Martin Pineda assured the council that the 2025-26 city budget is in good shape. Some deficits will be offset by reserve funds as well as incoming grant money for the Gridley Sports Complex and the Highway 99 Rehabilitation project, according to Pineda. "I think we're good. If this budget were passed today, I don't think we would be in any kind of danger," Pineda said. Pineda outlined the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and a summary of all the departments. Revenue for the General Fund (that includes police, fire, and streets) increased by about \$300,000, while expenses increased due to added staffing and rising contributions for California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS)/Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL). Continuing with Special Revenue Funds, Pineda said that this included items such as the gas tax and the sports complex grant. "We expect to get \$2.87 million from that," Pineda said. The \$300,000 needed for the Feather River Sewer Project will be reimbursed by a grant as well, according to the finance director. Enterprise Funds include electric, water, sewer, public works and transit. Utility rates will have a projected increase to \$9.4 million, based on the usage study conducted in 2023, Pineda said. Councilman Angel Calderon raised concerns for the seniors and disabled who need assistance with utilities. City Administrator Elisa Arteaga pointed out that there have been programs Gridley has utilized through the Community Action Agency (CAA). Aside from the Community Action Agency, the Public Benefit program listed as a portion of Gridley utility bills provides funding for community needs, such as utility bill assistance, energy-efficient air conditioners and refrigerators, and energy-use education. In summary, the total projected revenue for the coming year is \$23.6 million, with total expenses *Continued on page 4*

Live Oak Council Approves Water Rate Increase



Consultant Alison Lechowicz explained the proposed increases to the water fund rates at the City Council's Prop. 218 public hearing. Photo capture from Live Oak City Council recording

By Shaunna Boyd

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The Live Oak City Council held a Proposition 218 Public Hearing on May 28 to consider potential water rate increases to cover the operations of the city's water system, which delivers water to approximately 2,800 customer accounts. A grant-funded water rate study determined that rate increases were necessary to move the water fund into solvency and repay its debt. As an enterprise fund, consultant Alison Lechowicz said, "it's intended to be fully self-supported by rates and charges. It's not intended to keep borrowing funds from other city accounts to essentially subsidize your water bills."

Water rates in Live Oak have remained the same for almost 20 years, so the water fund has been operating at a significant deficit. Revenues are only \$900,000 per year, with expenses at \$1.7 million. "Revenues basically need to double to cover costs," said Lechowicz. If rates don't increase, deficit spending will continue at \$800,000 per year. The current rates are the lowest in the region, and "as a result, the water utility is doing very poorly financially," said Lechowicz. With a deficit of \$3.5 million, she said it was "one of the worst cases I've even seen" in her 18 years of experience. Most customers currently pay \$23.97 per month for 20 units of

water. Under the proposed increase, customers will pay for each unit of water used. So customers who use more will pay more. Lechowicz said the proposed rate structure is legally preferred because the costs reflect the actual service. On average, most customers will see a monthly increase of \$20 on their bills during the first year of the plan, with more increases phased in over a total of five years. All ratepayers and property owners were informed of the Prop. 218 hearing and if more than 50% submitted a written protest, the council legally could not adopt the increase. Some residents in attendance held up signs opposing the rate increase and there was some talking among *Continued on page 4*

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the U.S. after gardening, according to ABC News, and the second most visited category of websites. I will not mention which category of internet searches is #1 but suffice it to say - it is not

AppealDemocrat.com. Research indicates that a significant portion of the American population is interested in learning about their family history. A study by a reputable firm found that 70% of Americans think it's important to know their family history. Additionally, 35 million people have taken DNA tests to discover their ancestry. The popularity of genealogy has also been growing as technology has been making it easier and easier to digitize records and make them available free of cost. Gridley Herald publisher Paul Scholl recently dropped by a FamilySearch pop-up family history event at the Roseville

Galleria mall and spent more than an hour and a half learning about his people. It's always an exciting race through the records to find out if you're somehow related to a famous person or someone who impacted world history in a great way. It's also kind of comical when you find out that someone in your family was like a horse thief in Kansas or a famous outlaw. If you get a chance, read Paul's story. If you'd like to do your own family history, go to Family Search.com. It's free. The things you find out may change your view of who you are. *** Josh F.W. Cook is an educator and administrator. ★

Save the Date for Music Camp

Gridley Christian Church News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Christian Church will hold The Colors of His Love Music Camp from July 14 to July 20. Children 4 years old through eighth-grade are welcome to come and learn about how much God loves them. Monday through Friday camp is from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday's dress rehearsal is 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday's performances are at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is no charge for participating in

this fun week. A free copy of the music will be given to each family. The children will learn a mini-musical of four songs. Interesting Bible lessons, crafts, snack time, rhythm instruments, song bells and hand bells will all be a part of our time together. The children will use their talents for Jesus. Call Bonnie at 530-933-9845 to register and for more information. To speak with Pastor Ed, call 530-846-4002. Gridley Christian Church is located at 580 Washington St. and is a place where everyone is family. ★

Beta Omega Master Officers Installed



A chapter from Beta Sigma Phi, Beta Omega Master members are photographed during a monthly meeting. Photo courtesy of Beta Omega Master chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

Beta Sigma Phi News Release


BIGGS, CA (MPG) - Beta Omega Master chapter members of Beta Sigma Phi welcomed five former members to their May meeting at the Victorian Rose. President Dell DeMeyer conducted the brief business meeting, lunch was served and reports were given of the recent California Beta Sigma Phi All State convention held in Burbank. Vice-President Ada Christensen gave a delegate report on the Far Northern California Council April brunch held in Redding. Installation of officers was presented by Diane Wilkerson and congratulations went to DeMeyer, Christensen, Recording Secretary Ernie Chambers and Treasurer Bonnie Bayles-Stier. The chapter theme, "Pink Angels of Friendship," was announced using the flamingo as a chapter mascot. The chapter meets once a month for a business meeting from September through June and holds various social events throughout the year. Members rejoining are Louann Choate,

Kathy Adams, Colleen Banes, Marci Banes and Diane Wilkerson. Also in attendance was Arlene Grein, Ruby Dickey Mena and Pam Coffin. The chapter has had a busy year, with a successful brunch last December at Gold Country Casino in Oroville and presenting philanthropic money to the state area projects of Cystic Fibrosis, Kidney Research Fund at Stanford, Scleroderma and the Lupus Foundation, as well as a Scholarship award to a Gridley High School student. Bayles-Stier held the traditional 94th Founder's Day celebration at her home in April with 17 current and former members attending the salad, tea, sandwich, dessert luncheon provided by the executive board members. Yellow roses were presented to the chapter members who helped organize and present the December brunch and the chapter Highlights was written and read by Ernie Chambers. Members will meet on June 9 at the home of DeMeyer to plan the coming year and enjoy a salad potluck luncheon. ★

Youth Psychiatric Health Facility Being Built

Orchard Hospital News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Orchard Hospital is proud to announce plans for a new 16-bed inpatient youth psychiatric health facility, set to be constructed in Gridley. This vital project aims to address the growing need for youth mental and behavioral health services in Northern California. The demolition of a former assisted living facility, located just north of Orchard Hospital, recently began and is expected to take approximately two months. Construction of the new facility will follow immediately, with an estimated grand opening in September 2026. Before demolition began, Orchard Hospital was pleased to collaborate with CAL FIRE, the Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Sutter County Sheriff's Office, allowing them to utilize the old building for critical training exercises throughout the past month. This partnership reflects the hospital's ongoing commitment to supporting local emergency services and enhancing community



Orchard Hospital

safety. "With the support and backing of American Advanced Management (AAM) and Orchard Hospital CEO Amy Micheli, we are honored to bring this much-needed mental and behavioral health service to our region," said Kirsten Storne-Piazza, Orchard Hospital's director of psychiatric services. "We are dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality care and ensuring that young people in Northern California have access to the support they deserve and need." The new Youth Psychiatric Health Facility will serve patients requiring inpatient psychiatric treatment, offering a safe, therapeutic environment designed to foster healing, resilience, and long-term recovery. ★

You're Invited to the American Legion's

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Wilson Elementary
409 Magnolia St. Gridley, CA 95948

FOR KIDS AND TEENS 18 AND UNDER
Children Must be present to receive meals, and must eat at the facility

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Gridley High School
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No service 6/19 in observance of Juneteenth

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Pick Up Time: 9:30am-11:30am Monday
(Pick up M-F meals of Breakfast and Lunch)
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FOR KIDS AND TEENS 18 AND UNDER
Children Must be present to receive meals

GHS Athlete Signing Night

Bulldogs Crowned as Division Champions

By Dillon Longmire

LASSEN, CA (MPG) - The Gridley Bulldogs softball team secured their spot in the Division IV 2025 CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) Norcal Softball Championship Tournament after a comeback win over the Lassen Grizzlies.

On Saturday, May 24, the Bulldogs traveled to Lassen to take on the Grizzlies in the Division 3 Softball Super Regional Championship game. The score remained at 0-0 after two innings. That was until the Grizzlies scored four runs at the bottom of the third and three more runs at the bottom of the fourth. With at least three more innings to go and a seven-point deficit, the Bulldogs decided that they wouldn't go down without a fight.

The Bulldogs responded with three runs at the top of the fifth and ended the Grizzlies scoring run. Still needing more, the Bulldogs exploded for six runs in the sixth and once again held the Grizzlies to nothing, setting up a thriller of a seventh inning. The Bulldogs were unable to expand their 9-7 lead at the top of the seventh but the Bulldog defense stepped up and once again shut down the Grizzlies, ending the game with a 9-7 win and extending their season.

Freshman Delanie Cloyd led the Bulldogs with four hits, two runs, and two RBIs (runs batted in).

On June 3, after press time, the Bulldogs will travel to Walnut Creek to take on the 13-11 Northgate Broncos, who won the Division 4 championship. ★



Gridley High School hosted its third annual Athlete Signing Night on May 29.



Ten athletes from Gridley High School will continue their athletic and education careers.



Each coach shared a quick word or story about each player.

Story by Dillon Longmire and photos by Tamara Carr

GRIDELY, CA (MPG) - On May 29 Gridley High School hosted its third annual Athlete Signing Night. Ten athletes from Gridley High School will continue their athletic and education careers. Each of their coaches shared a quick word or story about each player, celebrating their time at Gridley

High School and wishing them good luck in their journey. The following are the athletes who attended signing night. **Johnny Axume** (soccer) will attend Yuba College. **Graciala Aviles** (track and field) will attend Butte College. **Ryan Taranto** (baseball) will attend Yuba College. **Reese Stevens** (softball) will attend Sierra College.

Nolan Weagant (soccer) will attend Dominican University of California. **Charlee Sormano** (Volleyball) will attend Feather River College. **Garrett Francis** (baseball) will attend Butte College. **Eddie Rodriguez** (soccer) will attend Yuba College. **Brook Marr** (basketball) will attend Butte College.

Gabriel Olivas (soccer) will attend Yuba College. ★



Edward Jones

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Is your retirement at risk?

It's important to save for retirement, but only half of Americans have calculated how much money they'll need, according to the 2024 Retirement Confidence Survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Yet without knowing how much you'll need, it's hard to know if you're on track to reach your goals for retirement.

Here are a few considerations to help shape your retirement savings strategy.

Calculate how much you'll need. You may dream of retiring "comfortably," but how do you define "comfortable" in terms of actual money? Take the time to outline how much you spend now, and how much you think you'll spend in retirement. That will help you understand how much you need to save now to afford the retirement lifestyle you want later. A financial advisor can help with resources and knowledge for building and managing your retirement strategy.

Start saving now. It's easy to procrastinate, especially if you are younger and further away from retirement. But the earlier you start, the less you may need to save from each paycheck to build your funds over time. If you're closer to retirement, you can take advantage of catch-up contributions to most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan. If you're 50 or older, you can save pretax an extra \$7,500 to your retirement account beyond the standard total limit of \$23,500 allowed in 2025. Those 60-63 years old can contribute to these plans an extra \$11,250 above the standard total limit. That's an annual total of \$31,000 for people ages 50 and older; or \$34,750 for those 60-63 years old in pretax retirement plan contributions.

Take the right amount of risk. You may think it's risky to put money away for retirement instead of keeping it handy for discretionary spending. But the biggest risk of all is not reaching your retirement goal. For example, a portfolio that's all in cash will have little increasing value over time and won't provide any growth potential even to keep up with inflation. It's as if you're losing money every year. Then again, if your investments are only keeping up with inflation, your money is not growing. Consider growth investments to help build the funds you'll need in retirement. The key is ensuring you have the appropriate amount of risk — not too much, but not too little — to achieve your growth goals.

Save separately for emergencies. To protect your hard-earned retirement savings, build an emergency fund separate from your long-term investments. It can help ensure you have what you need to cover surprises like a large auto repair, unexpected medical bills, temporary loss of income from changing jobs or early retirement caused by health issues. For most people, three to six months' worth of total expenses is an appropriate amount for an emergency fund. And you'll want to keep it in an accessible, low-risk account that holds cash and equivalents. Above all, try to avoid taking money from your long-term retirement investments. Doing so could result in taxes, penalties and reductions to your overall principal investment, all of which could affect your retirement savings.

Retirement should be an exciting time to enjoy what you've worked so hard to earn. Planning for what you'll need and protecting those savings can help ensure a comfortable future.

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Live Oak Council Approves Water Rate Increase

Continued from page 1
the crowd during the presentation.
“I’ll ask the public to refrain from talking and getting out of order. We do have rules of decorum in this chamber. I ask that you respect those,” Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine said.
During public comment, many residents spoke both for and against the rate increase.

Those in opposition argued that residents should not be forced to pay more for poor quality water, with several mentioning the presence of polyfluoroalkyls (PFAs, or forever chemicals) in the water.

One resident said his water has a terrible smell and he can barely afford his bills as it is. He added that a previous council had voted to increase councilmember salaries and he thought public safety should be more important than pay raises.

Resident Cruz Mora said that this proposal was “getting a lot of backlash” from residents and the council “needed to listen.” He suggested pursuing grants to improve the water system rather than putting the cost on the customer, particularly while there are PFAs in the water.

Another resident called the water rate increase “outrageous, misleading and unjustified,” and alleged that the Prop. 218 notices were “designed to confuse, not to inform.” As part of a group collecting signatures against the rate increase, he said that the city had not been clear about the number of water accounts, thus “shifting the goalposts” for how many protests were needed.

A resident submitted a written statement in favor of the rate increase, stating that if the water fund can’t support itself, the city will have to sell it to a private water company that will end up charging customers even more.

Another resident said this issue has been going on for 20 years and he commended the council for finally addressing it, calling the increase “very necessary.” He said, “You can’t continue to use the General Fund to subsidize an enterprise fund. That’s just not done.”

Another resident said, “If you don’t increase the water rates, you’re going to be in debt forever. We need to do something practical.”

Several residents stated that the city will need additional funding from the rate increase in order to improve the water quality.

“Yes, we want better water but it costs money,” said one resident, adding that it was time to make the tough decisions instead of passing the problem onto the next generation.

Another resident said that the water fund needs to be self-sufficient because it’s impractical to rely on grants, especially from the current federal government. She added that if households pay for what they use, it could encourage more water conservation, since she sees “a lot of water wasted in the community.”

Councilmember Bob Woten said he appreciated hearing from residents. He acknowledged the public has generally resisted any proposed rate increase, so past councils never moved forward with it.

“We have constantly got behind; there’s no way around it,” Woten said.

The council is responsible for ensuring that the city funds aren’t failing but the water fund is failing and the deficit has to be addressed, Woten said.

“Our sewer rates are very high,”



Councilmember Nancy Santana said.

If the water rates must be raised, Santana suggested, then the sewer rates could be reduced to offset how much customers pay overall for utilities. She said water rates have stayed the same for years and asked, “So, this year, the city is going to go bankrupt because we don’t do this?”

Mayor Chapdelaine reminded Santana that the sewer rates were not on the agenda and legally, the comments need to focus on the hearing’s topic. He also clarified that the council can’t decide to lower the sewer rates, since those rates are also set based on a rate study and Prop. 218 public hearing. Chapdelaine also explained the financial projections.

“Two years out, the water fund will eclipse what we have in non-dedicated General Fund to cover it,” said Mayor Chapdelaine.

Councilmember Ashley Hernandez asked for a list of some capital improvements that would be funded through the rate increase. Interim Public Works Director Jeff Nelson said planned improvements include repairs to the well one roof, inspection of the water treatment systems, valve replacements, upgrades at wells three and four, installation of a backup generator, security and communication systems upgrades, removal of arsenic sludge and updating the water master plan.

Vice-Mayor Aaron Pamma asked what improvements have been made to the water system in recent years. Nelson said that “a lot” of improvements have been done to the sewer system, but with the water system, they have “tried to manage it the best we can.” Because there has not been any funding available for improvements, Nelson said, “the maintenance has been deferred for years and years.”

Vice-Mayor Pamma added that no one likes having PFAs in the water but the water quality can’t be improved until money is available.

Mayor Chapdelaine thanked the public for attending, stating, “It may get contentious at times; this is what it’s about as a community and having these conversations.”

Chapdelaine also clarified that the city is ineligible for grants and loans at this time because “our debt ratio is too high. With a \$3.5-million deficit, we can’t guarantee, we can’t provide a match.” Because the PFAs were only at the reportable level instead of an actionable level, there is no state or federal funding available there either.

Staff reported that the city received 438 written protests, with 371 verified. Chapdelaine said the number fell well below the 1,400-majority required to block the rate increase.

Councilmember Hernandez made a motion to amend the rates for the water fund, which was seconded by Councilmember Woten and approved 4-1, with Councilmember Santana dissenting.

The increased water rates will go into effect this July. ★

Live Oak Welcomes New City Manager

City of Live Oak News Release

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The City of Live Oak is proud to announce the appointment of Ben Moody as its new, permanent, full-time city manager. Moody officially begins his role on June 9, bringing with him over 25 years of local government experience and a deep-rooted commitment to community service and development.

A lifelong resident of the Yuba-Sutter region, Moody is a proud graduate of area schools, including Sutter Union High School, and California State University, Chico, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He has spent his career working for and alongside local agencies, serving in key leadership roles including city engineer, city surveyor, city planner, and most recently, as director of public works and development services for the City of Yuba City.

Moody’s leadership has encompassed oversight of fourteen independent divisions with more than 120 full-time employees, with a strong focus on engineering, utilities, maintenance, and development services. His proven track record of collaborative leadership, strategic planning, and community-driven problem solving make him an excellent fit to lead the City of Live Oak through its next chapter.

Moody will serve in a dual capacity as both city manager and director of



Ben Moody is appointed by the City of Live Oak as its new, permanent, full-time city manager on Wednesday, starting his role on June 9, according to the City of Live Oak. Photo courtesy of the City of Live Oak

public works, generating an estimated annual savings of approximately \$180,000 for the City of Live Oak. As a licensed engineer, Moody is also expected to lead in-house engineering projects, further reducing the city’s reliance on outside consultants and delivering even greater cost efficiencies.

“It is both an honor and a privilege to serve the Live Oak community,” said Moody. “I look forward to contributing my knowledge, experience, and strong work ethic in collaboration with the Live Oak City Council, as we work together to make the city an even better place to live, work, and do business.”

Moody has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to public service outside of city hall. He serves on

the Brittan Elementary School Board, the Sierra Central Credit Union Supervisory Committee, and is an active member of the Sutter Lions Club and Sutter Youth Organization. He also enjoys mandarin farming, fishing, and motorcycle riding in his spare time.

Moody and his wife, Kim, have been married for 22 years and together, they are raising three children: Nick, 20, Tori, 18, and Brock, 14, here in Sutter County.

“Ben brings a wealth of experience, energy, and dedication to our community,” said Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine. “We are excited to welcome him to the City of Live Oak and look forward to working with him as we continue building a stronger, more vibrant future for our city.” ★

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Gridley Budget is Good, Pineda Says

Continued from page 1
projected at \$25.2 million. The largest share of the expenses falls within the General Fund.

“It’s not so much a true deficit,” due to funds that are held in reserve, the finance director said.

To simplify the information, Arteaga said, “Water is its own business. Sewer is its own business. Electric is its own business. Those are small micro-businesses. General Fund is everything else that does not touch water, electric and sewer.”

Some surplus funds are transferred to the General Fund.

Councilman Calderon pointed out that some of the city departments went over budget. Arteaga responded by saying the software that the city uses

precludes any department heads from making a purchase order that is over budget, without prior approval from the finance department.

Councilwoman Catalina Sanchez suggested the Feather Flyer as a possible source of revenue. She also had questions about the animal shelter and money that could be saved there.

Pineda said that the police budget has increased by \$200,000 and the fire budget has increased by \$550,000.

In anticipation of the coming hot weather, there was discussion about adjusting the hours of operation for the Splash Pad at Vierra Park.

Councilman Calderon asked if there should be a charge for using it and City

Administrator Arteaga said that charging a fee would be problematic.

“I think it would be better for us to get the costs (for repairs and operation) and keep it free,” Arteaga said.

As per the county and state laws, the water is chlorinated and it recycles through the system.

The entire preliminary fiscal report can be viewed on the city website at gridley.ca.us or at City Hall, 685 Kentucky St., Gridley, where individual copies can be purchased.

Committee and department reports concluded the meeting. Councilman Calderon expressed concerns that the city has been behind on audits from the Butte County Association of Governments. ★

Grads’ Parade Creates Memories

Gridley High School News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Roughly 70 seniors from Gridley High School participated in the third annual Parade of Graduates on May 28.

The high school seniors visited Wilson Elementary before they headed to Sycamore Middle School and McKinley Primary School, where elementary and middle school students lined the halls to cheer and give high-fives to seniors passing by.

Seniors had the opportunity to take pictures with former teachers and family members, taking group photos in front of the schools and on the playgrounds.



On the playground at McKinley Primary School, nearly 70 graduate seniors from Gridley High School stand together for a group photo on May 28. Photo courtesy of Gridley High School

It was another successful senior event.

Gridley High School thanks Wilson Elementary, Sycamore

Middle School and McKinley Primary School for their continued support in this activity. ★



Graduating high school students from Gridley High School are embraced during the third annual Parade of Grads at McKinley Primary School. Photo courtesy of Gridley High School



McKinley Primary School students line up to give graduating seniors from Gridley High School high fives during the third annual Parade of Grads on May 28. Photo courtesy of Gridley High School

High School Students Rewarded at Dollars for Scholars Event



Kaiza Quist and Christian Harshbarger both received the Semper Fidelis music award from the Marine Corps.

Continued from page 1

Columbus. Some were designated for specific fields of study, such as nursing, athletics or the performing arts.

Military scholarships and awards were presented by the Army and Marines.

Not all scholarships were for college: some were available for those attending trade or vocational schools. For example, the Quota Club had a vocational award of \$750 that went to Payton Burresch.

Several of the recipients spoke with the Gridley Herald at the end of the program.

“I feel really great and proud of my classmates for coming this far,” said Alfonso Martinez. “I’m going to go to UC Davis.”

Martinez said that he will study biochemistry as a pre-med student.

Kaiza Quist received three different scholarships and the Semper Fidelis music award from the Marine Corps. She plans to attend Brigham Young University-Idaho.

“I’m majoring in psychology and then I’m going to go into the work force in criminal justice,” Quist said.

Another recipient of the



More than 50 students were recognized at the Gridley High School Senior Awards Night.

Semper Fidelis music award, Christian Harshbarger said, “I plan to serve a mission for the LDS church, a two-year mission. Then when I get back home, I plan to attend BYU-Idaho for four years in a psychology degree. Then I will go into the Police Academy to work as a police officer and hopefully make my way up to detective.”

In addition to the music award, Harshbarger received an academic letter and a fall insert.

Taylor Patterson received Honors recognition, as well as a life membership in the California Scholarship Federation. She is

headed first to Butte College, and then plans to transfer to Chico State as a nursing major. Patterson completed several of the Pathways programs, including Patient Care. Gridley has been Patterson’s home since the Camp Fire.

Eddie Rodriguez received the Assistant Principal’s award for “the spirit, leadership and enthusiasm that defines the best of Gridley High School,” said Assistant Principal Michael Huyck, and “someone who has left a lasting impact on our school and community.”

Huyck said he watched



Taylor Patterson is all smiles after receiving a number of scholarships and recognitions at the Gridley High School Senior Awards Night.

Rodriguez as far back as middle school at Sycamore, when Huyck was there.

“Eddie was my first favorite. Even then, he stood out,” Huyck said.

Rodriguez said that “Mr. Huyck’s guidance has really helped me grow into who I am now.”

In addition to the Assistant Principal’s award, Rodriguez received the Bulldog Scholar Athlete Award and the State Seal of Biliteracy. Rodriguez said that he wants to become an accountant and specialize in financial analysis. ★

Gridley High School Senior Awards 2025

Delmar “Red” & Francis King (\$3000): Alina Vasquez

E.E. Dunning Memorial: Payton Burresch

Gridley Education Foundation \$4000: Charity Archer, Ryan Taranto

Richard Harp Memorial Scholarship (\$1000 per student): Charleeze Sormano, Nolan Weagant, Augustus Stogsdill

Dickey Jones-Sheats Excel (\$1500): Kaiza Quist, Joselin Ramirez Solorzano

Sandi Boeger-Faith in the Future: Joselin Ramirez Solorzano, Payton Burresch

Gridley Teachers Association (\$1000): Nolan Weagant

Kaleidoscope (\$1000): Augustus Stogsdill, Kaiza Quist

American Legion, Post 210: Ryan Taranto, Annie Woods

American Legion Auxiliary (\$300): Bella Warren

Angelo Gueglio Athletic Memorial Scholarship (\$500): Augustus Stogsdill

Arnoldo Avalos “Aspire” Award (\$1000 Per year): Alfonso Martinez, Yamileth Martinez

Butte County Farm Bureau, Gerald M Geiger (\$750): Payton Burresch

Gridley Rotary Club Merit Scholarships (\$500 per student): Annie Woods, Alfonso Martinez, Ryan Taranto

Beta Sigma Phi (\$400): Ruby Rosas

CSEA Scholarship (\$500): Karla Barajas

Debbie & DJ Shackleford Scholarship (\$250): Annie Woods, Ryan Taranto

Farm Laboring Housing (\$1000): Juan Orozco

Douglas Eidson Memorial Softball Scholarship: Reese Stevens

Gail McMurtry Lucas Memorial Scholarship: Ruby Rosas

Gridley Friends of the Library (\$500): Lexus Parker, Augustus Stogsdill, Ryan Taranto

Gridley Lions Club Service Award (\$1500): Annie Woods

John and Loretta Gustafson

Scholarship (\$500): Payton Burresch

Schohr Family-Schohr Ranch Scholarship (\$500): Augustus Stogsdill, Payton Burresch

Stonecutters Scholarship (\$500): Karla Barajas

Kids Castle LLC (\$500): Charleeze Sormano

Knights of Columbus, Richard F. Bennett Memorial (\$1000): Cathy Lua, Cadance Van Gundy, Alfonso Martinez, Mia Mota

The John “Buck” Rogers & Dan Jarratt Scholarship-Cal Deer Association: Reese Stevens

Sunsweet Scholarship: Brooklyn Barnette

NAERA-National Athletic Equipment Reconditioning Assoc. (\$1000): Augustus Stogsdill

North Butte Masonic: Augustus Stogsdill, Guillermo Villanueva

Quota Club (\$1000): Taylor Carey, Augustus Stogsdill, Alfonso Martinez, Yamileth Martinez, Nathan Zumwalt, Ryan Taranto

Quota Club of Gridley Legacy Award (\$250): Kaleb Sherwood

Quota Club Ruth Rush Scholarship (\$750): Reese Stevens, Augustus Stogsdill

Quota Club Trade/Vocational Scholarship (\$750): Payton Burresch

Woodrow & Elsie Cooper (\$500): Annie Woods, Nolan Weagant, Ryan Taranto

Verda Walton Jensen Memorial Scholarship for Sportsmanship (\$1000): Nolan Weagant

“Forever Sam”-Sandra Ethington Kilian Memorial (\$1000): Kaiza Quist

Army National Scholar Athlete Award: Charity Archer, Augustus Stogsdill

Marines-Distinguished Athlete Award: Charity Archer, Augustus Stogsdill

Marines-Scholastic Excellence Award: Charity Anne Archer, Luisangel Zepeda

Marines-Semper Fidelis Award of Music Excellence: Kaiza Quist, Christian Harshbarger

The California Department of Education-Mathematics Council: Alonso Ramos (Statistics), Charity Archer (AP Calculus)

College Board National Recognition Program: Amberlee Gruber (In the area of high academics in a rural school)

Butte View League (BVL) Scholar Athlete: Augustus Stogsdill

Bulldog Athlete of the Year (Top Student Athlete): Charity Archer, Augustus Stogsdill

Bulldog Athlete “Legend Award” (Played 12 Seasons of Sport): Augustus Stogsdill

Bulldog Scholar Athletes: Charlee Sormano, Reese Stevens, Mathew Miskin,Cesar Ortiz, Eddie Rodriguez, Augustus Stogsdill, Garrett Francis, Nathan Zumwalt, Luis Murrilo, Zachary Bonnifet, Will Yost

Patient Care Pathway, Red and White Cord and Stethoscope: Quetzalli Gutierrez, Maria Perez, Max Tolman, Nathan Zumwalt, Julissa Acosta, Cathy Lua, Nayeli Castaneda, Maricruz Cervantes, Mariela Cortez, Esmeralda Guzman, Rebeca Lozano, Andrea Montes, Taylor Carey, Richard Villalobos, Charity Archer, Ariana Benitez, Augustus Stogsdill, Cadance Van Gundy, Kiya Emberson, Ishnoor Kaur, Ariyana Lucero, Leonardo Martinez, Yamileth Martinez, Alfonso Martinez, Taylor Patterson

Animal Science Pathway, White Cord: Julissa Acosta, Charity Archer, Karla Barajas, Guillermo Villanueva, Brooklyn Barnette, Payton Burresch, Taylor Carey, Charleeze Sormano, Oscar Guerrero, Jace Lewellen, Luis Murillo, Reese Stevens, Brenda Ornelas, Paris Owens, Vanessa Poynor

Horticulture Pathway, Green Cord: Karla Barajas, Erick Camargo, Taylor Carey, Vanessa Poynor, Felicita Graham, Ariyana Lucero, Yamileth Martinez,

Charlee Sormano, Paris Owens, Lexus Parker, Taylor Patterson, Alina Ramos

Agriscience Pathway, Dark Blue Cord: Josh Everett, Alyssa Hubbard, Paris Owens, Vanessa Poynor, Kaleb Sherwood, Reese Stevens, Augustus Stogsdill, Annie Woods, Hector Marquez

Ag Manufacturing Pathway, Purple Cord: Annie Woods, Merced Acosta, Jace Lewellen, Elijah Gonzalez, Jace Lobo, Guillermo Villanueva, Julio Ramos, Jose Avalos, Diego Corona, Payton Burresch

State Seal of Biliteracy: Noemi Gonzalez, Quetzalli Gutierrez, Leonardo Martinez, Ruby Rosas, Guadalupe Tinoco, Lexus Parker, Jesus Rodriguez, Ryan Taranto, Guadalupe Valle Santana, Eddie Rodriguez, Davian Barajas, Yamileth Martinez, Angela Arroyo, Cathy Lua

California Scholarship Federation (CSF): Alfonso Martinez, Reese Stevens, Alejandro Espinoza, Augustus Stogsdill, Nathan Zumwalt, Luisangel Zepeda, Analiese Bulleri, Alina Vazquez, Karla Barajas, Ryan Taranto, Taylor Patterson, Joselin Ramirez Solorzano, Ruby Rosas, Amberlee Gruber, Annie Woods

Honors 2025, Gold Ribbon Students earning a 3.9 GPA: Merced Acosta, Kenny Tejeda Guzman, Brook Marr,Taylor Carey, Taylor Patterson, Sangfay Pharn, Joselin Ramirez Solorzano, Annie Woods

High Honors 2025, Blue Ribbon Students earning a 4.0 GPA: Augustus Stogsdill, Amberlee Gruber, Nathan Zumwalt, Alfonso Martinez, Yamileth Martinez, Ishnoor Kaur, Ryan Taranto, Charleeze Sormano, Sarah Terry, Davian Barajas, Cathy Lua, Reese Stevens, Alina Vasquez, Quetzalli Gutierrez, Alonso Ramos, Alejandro Espinosa, Lexus Parker

Salutarian 2024, 2nd Highest GPA: Luisangel Zepeda, 4.36

Valedictorian 2024, Highest GPA: Charity Archer, 4.52

Assistant Principals Award: Eddie Rodriguez

Principal's Award: Augustus Stogsdill ★

Community Calendar

Butte County Libraries

Butte County Libraries have the following upcoming events: (G) Gridley branch, 299 Spruce St. and (B) Biggs branch, 464A B St. Call 530-552-5652 for more information.

Friday, June 6: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

Wednesday, June 11: Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. (G) Afternoon kids’ club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

Thursday, June 12: Spielberg Spectacular – a library film festival, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Join us for the first of a 4-movie celebration of legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg. Whether you’re a longtime fan or discovering these classics for the first time, this festival is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. Films are rated PG or PG-13. Patrons under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. (G)

Friday, June 13: Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

Saturday, June 7
Preserving Food with Friends, 10 a.m. to noon at the Garden at St. Timothy’s, 410 Jackson St. This month we’ll be working on pickles. For more information, contact preservingfoodwithfriends@gmail.com

Wednesday, June 11
Stay Kool at the Pool and Movie night, 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Park, Live Oak. Free swim and hot dogs, plus a movie. Bring your lawn blanket and lawn chair. More information at 530-695-2112.

Wednesday, June 11 through Wednesday, August 6
Summer reading program at the Barber Branch Library, 10321 Live Oak Blvd., Live Oak. Kids to age

17 are invited to read books, collect points and earn prizes. In addition, every other Wednesday, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., we’ll have a special craft time. June 11, the first date, we’ll be making mosaic coasters. Have questions? Call us at 530-822-3223.

Wednesday, June 18
Water fight with the Sheriffs, 11 a.m. to noon at Pool Park, Live Oak. For more information, call 530-695-2112.

Thursday, June 19
Butte County Farm Bureau’s 2025 Summer BBQ at the Butte County Fairgrounds, 199 E. Hazel St., Gridley. No-host social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. This fundraiser includes a raffle, silent auction and live auction, dinner, dessert and bounce house for the kids. Tickets and more information at <https://www.buttefarmbureau.com/>

Saturday, June 21
Butte County Olive Festival, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1480 Lincoln St., Oroville. Join us for a day of fun, flavor and history. Come explore Oroville’s rich olive history and enjoy a tour of the Ehmann Home, delicious olives and olive oil tastings, live music, vendor and craft fair. Hosted by the Butte County Historical Society. More information at 530-533-9418.

Meeting Minders

Ongoing Activities (Current as of publication, please verify schedule with the organization):

American Legion Bingo, Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Biggs Community Hall, 280-B St., Biggs.

Biggs City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the council chambers, 3016 Sixth St., Biggs.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

Downtown Chico holds a night market every Thursday night through Sept. 25, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Broadway. The market offers a vibrant blend of farm-fresh produce, unique artisan crafts, and live entertainment, all set in a lively community atmosphere. Presented by the Downtown Chico Business Association. Call 530-345-6500 for more information.

Gridley City Council meets on the first and third Monday each month, 6 p.m. to 7p.m. in the council chambers, 685 Kentucky St. Meeting agendas are posted to the following site on the Friday prior to each meeting: <http://gridley.ca.us/government-and-departments/city-council> The next meeting will be Monday, June 16.

Gridley Senior Group Breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. includes Bingo at 9:30 a.m. Gridley Recreation Center 194 Washington St. For more information, call 530-846-3264.

Gridley Unified School District (GUSD) Board meetings are generally on the first and third Wednesday each month, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11. Call 530-846-4721 for more information.

Live Oak City Council meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 9955 Live Oak Blvd. Call 530-695-2112 for more information. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18.

Rotary Club meets every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Hall, 446 Kentucky St. For more information or membership, call 530-632-5990. ★

Uncle Convicted of Molesting Nieces Sentenced

Butte County District Attorney’s Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Oroville man convicted by a jury earlier this month of molesting his nieces over several years was in Butte County Superior Court on May 29 to hear his sentence.

Jason Pearl, 38, was sentenced to 105 years to life in state prison plus an additional 17 years for the 11 convictions for his sexual assaults.

In asking for the maximum sentence, the prosecuting trial attorney, Butte County Deputy District Attorney D.J. Lee, pointed out to the judge that District Attorney investigators continued to monitor Pearl’s jail calls after his jury conviction and found Pearl continued to show no remorse or accountability for his actions. Instead, Pearl focused on strategizing ways to find loopholes in the law and expedite his release.

In response, Judge Virginia Gingery also noted the planning and criminal sophistication that went into Pearl’s actions, including the grooming techniques Pearl used to manipulate the victims and enable his assaults. Pearl was convicted of seven separate life charges totaling 105 years to life. Pearl was also convicted of an additional four counts of sexual assault for which the judge tacked on an additional 17 years in state prison.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the jury sat through four days of trial over two weeks, which included the testimony of the now-adult girls who bravely faced the man who abused them many years before.

The jury found Pearl guilty of all 11 counts of sexual assault charged by the District Attorney’s Office after less than 35 minutes of deliberation.

The girls had been sent in 2008 by their parents to live in Oroville with the girls’ grandparents and Pearl, their then 21-year-old uncle, while the girls’ parents dealt with financial problems out of state.

Ramsey said, as is common in these types of cases, the victims did not report the crimes for many years, trying to avoid thinking of the assaults and reliving the trauma. However,

the crimes were ultimately disclosed to their parents in 2021 and then quickly reported to law enforcement.

Pearl was arrested in October 2021 by district attorney child abuse investigators. The investigators interviewed Pearl and he confessed to his crimes, saying, “I ended up molesting them ... to put it blunt and straight up.” Pearl explained how he groomed the victims and manipulated their young minds, showing them pornography and playing games that would often lead to a “penalty” in the form of sexual assault. Pearl even penned apology letters to be given to the victims for the trauma that he put them through.

However, when Pearl was placed in Butte County Jail on \$8.2 million bail, his attitude quickly took a turn, as remorse turned to anger toward the victims, according to the District Attorney’s Office. Pearl told his parents (the girl’s grandparents) that the only reason the case was filed against him was because “we are a white American family and there’s a war against us right now,” the District Attorney’s Office said.

From behind bars, the District Attorney’s Office said, Pearl told his parents that he was going to “have to start hurting people” and that “those little” victims “are going to have to get up there and go through all this ... all over again”. In the jail calls, Pearl said the victims would have to “go through every little bit of it. Feel it, feel that ... pain,” according to the District Attorney’s Office.

However, Ramsey said the victims, now aged 23 and 21, refused to be intimidated and faced their abuser in court. Under questioning by the trial prosecutor, D.J. Lee, the young women told the jury about their abuse, reliving and describing graphic memories of sexual abuse. They described how Pearl made himself the “fun uncle” in their lives and manipulated that relationship into keeping the assaults a secret.

Ramsey noted that Pearl did not testify on his own behalf during the trial after putting the victims through their painful testimony and cross-examination by Pearl’s attorney. ★

Butte College SBDC
In-Person
Business Trainings



Butte College SBDC is a flagship program providing technical assistance throughout Butte, Glenn, Tehama, & Colusa Counties with free one-on-one business consulting and low to no fee trainings in all areas of business startup, development, management, growth & access to capital.

Delivering Outstanding Customer Service in a Retail Business (Oroville)
Excellent Customer Service is critical for increasing sales & profit, employee & customer retention, & sustaining business success. Learning the nuances of customer service that result in outstanding customer experience is a strategy for success in any business. Learn tools to properly train team/ staff, improve customer’s experience, & create a pleasant environment for all. Include: Advantages of outstanding customer service (i.e., increase sales & profit, customer retention, theft reduction); Creating outstanding customer service (phone, in-person, virtual); Knowing customers’ wants & expectations & examples of modeling practices & behaviors (i.e., scripts feedback, reward) & more.
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 10, 2025; 9:00am – 11:00am
Cost/Location: Free; 1566 Huntoon St., Oroville

HR Essentials for CA Small Businesses: A Practical Guide to Compliance & Best Practices (Chico)
This workshop will guide you through California human resource fundamentals, hiring, compliance, & employee management. You will learn: Why human resource matters for your small businesses (legal compliance, avoid costly penalties, employee retention, reduce turnover, hiring & performance management); Key California Labor Laws (overtime rules, meal & rest breaks, At-Will employment); Employee Classification - AB 5 Law (Employee vs Independent Contractor); Hiring Laws and Best Practices (Ban-the-Box Law, Salary history ban, anti-discrimination, job posting requirements/SB 1162); Required New Hire Documents (IRS & California Tax Forms, employee notice, workers’ comp sexual harassment prevention training); Employee Benefits & Retention (affordable benefits for small businesses, retaining talent); Required Benefits in California (sick leave & time off requirements, retirement account); Employee Management & Compliance (performance management, final paycheck rules); Employee Terminating Process; HR Tools & Resources for Small Businesses.
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 17, 2025; 8:30am – 10:30am
Cost/Location: Free; Butte College SBDC, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico

ServSafe Food safety Training & Certification (Chico)
California Uniform Retail Food Facility Law requires re-certification of competence in Food Safety and Sanitation every 5 years. Passing the ServSafe® exam is necessary to renew your certification. Training includes National Restaurant Association ServSafe® Exam, Essentials book, Answer Sheet and Certificate. This training is recognized by the California Health Department and fulfills the State of California certification obligations. Learn the importance of food safety practices and how to implement them. The trainer is State certified. Participants must register and purchase books 3 weeks before training to allow for book delivery and self-study. Seating is limited. Prepayment reserves your seat.
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 24, 2025; 9:00am – 5:00pm
Cost: \$120 per person (includes book); \$80 per person (book not included)
Location: Butte College SBDC, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico

New Venture Series for New and Startup Businesses (Chico)
A 4-week series providing essential information to individuals thinking about starting a business and new business owners. Topics include: Legal Requirements, Market Analysis, Cost Analysis, Funding Your Business, and Overview of the Business Plan - bringing it all together. Learn the legal requirements for starting your business, how to assess your market and plan for direction, how to obtain funding, types of funding available, calculate start-up costs & complete your business plan.
Date/Time: Tuesdays, July 8, 15, 22, & 29 2025; 10:00am – 12:00pm
Cost/Location: Free; Colusa City Hall, 425 Webster St., Colusa

To Register for Trainings: CALL: (530) 895-9017
or REGISTER HERE: <https://www.buttecollegesbdc.com/events/>



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SMALL
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DEVELOPMENT
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COLLEGE DISTRICT



CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF
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ADVOCATE



POWERED BY
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Administration

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Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least 72 hours in advance of this event; please send an email with the subject header ACCOMMODATION REQUEST to Butte College SBDC, 2480 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico, CA 95928, (530) 895-9017, konuwaso@butte.edu





What is the likelihood that all your lysosomes could burst at the same time?
Would you spontaneously dissolve?

– Annika, 12, Pennsylvania

Dear Annika,

I'd love to read a creepy science fiction story where people dissolve.

I asked my friend Anders Omsland if that could happen. He's a biomedical researcher at Washington State University.

He told me a lysosome is a specialized compartment in a cell. It's like a little sack of digestive enzymes. Those are proteins that break stuff down. Our cells use lysosomes to help destroy germs or recycle old or messed up cell parts.

Lysosomes are basically the cell's trash and recycling centers.

"I don't think it's possible for lysosomes to all pop at the same time," Omsland said. "They don't really explode in the first place. Their function is regulated in a very orchestrated, orderly process."

Here's how lysosomes work.

Let's say you forget to wash your hands and germs enter your body. With any luck, an immune cell—called a macrophage—senses the germ. The macrophage scoops it up. It holds the germ in a sack-like bubble. That's called a vesicle, or more precisely, a phagosome. Then the phagosome fuses with a lysosome to form a phagolysosome. Inside, digestive enzymes from the lysosome help destroy the germ.

Or imagine that one of your cells makes hemoglobin. That's a protein that carries oxygen in your blood. Normally, proteins work because of the way they're folded. A misfolded protein probably won't work. So, your cells scan for errors. They tag messed-up proteins. Those get picked up and taken to a lysosome. Just like with

germs, the lysosome breaks down the misfolded protein. Then it recycles the parts so the cell can try again.

Lysosomes are so important that mammal cells usually have hundreds of them.

Having all those pockets of digestive enzymes isn't risky. Your body evolved a fail-safe to prevent accidents.

"These processes activate in specific and orderly ways—so we don't get eaten up by our own lysosomal enzymes," Omsland said. "One specific condition that

activates degradative enzymes, often referred to as acid hydrolases, is acidic pH."

The inside of a lysosome is acidic. And those digestive enzymes only work in an acidic environment.

Cells are full of goo—called cytosol. It's neutral and not acidic. So, even if the lysosomes leaked, nothing would happen. It isn't acidic enough to turn on the enzymes.

Rarely, people are born with lysosomes that don't function properly. Their cells can't remove waste and toxic stuff. That can make them sick.

So, scientists don't worry about lysosomes bursting. They don't stress about people dissolving. But they are concerned about people whose lysosomes don't work. They're figuring out ways to fix the problem.

And that's pretty vesi-cool.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

The Gridley Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Butte, Adjudication No. 27207–October 29, 1951

Legal Advertising
300 Spruce Street, Ste C
Gridley, CA 95948

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
SFICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000305
The following person(s) are doing business as: Best Yards, 3819 Grizzly Creek Road, Oroville, CA 95965
Michael S Englund, 3819 Grizzly Creek Road, Oroville, CA 95965
Date filed in Butte County: April 16, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 16, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 2025
BEST 6-6-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000296
The following person(s) are doing business as: Soul Metamorphosis, 5887 Bennett Road, Chico, CA 95973
Keri L Aschwanden, 5887 Bennett Road, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: April 11, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 11, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 2025
SOUL 6-6-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000353
The following person(s) are doing business as: Winters Bakery, 2250 Notre Dame Boulevard, Apt 4, Chico, CA 95928
Jesse D Winters, 2250 Notre Dame Boulevard, Apt 4, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: May 2, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 2, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 2025
WINTERS 6-6-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000350
The following person(s) are doing business as: Honeysuckle Farms, 4801 Vivian Lane, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
Honeysuckle Farms LLC, 4801 Vivian Lane, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
Date filed in Butte County: May 1, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself au-

thorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 2025
HONEY 6-6-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000365
The following person(s) are doing business as: Plants and Produce, 5505 Skyway, Paradise, CA 95969
John T Heinke, 5365 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 95969
Date filed in Butte County: May 7, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: May 7, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025
PLANTS 6-13-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000357
The following person(s) are doing business as: Synergy Studio, 4696 Foothill Boulevard, Oroville, CA 95966
Adriana Long, 4696 Foothill Boulevard, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: May 5, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025
SYNERGY 6-13-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000358
The following person(s) are doing business as: JD Company, 1545 Lewis Oak Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Jacob Dunlap and Kayla Dunlap, 3247 Smith Avenue, Biggs, CA 95917
Date filed in Butte County: May 5, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: May 5, 2025
This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025
JD 6-20-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000345
The following person(s) are doing business as: Arnold Bros, 50 Oakcrest Drive, Oroville, CA 95966
Ruben R Arnold, 50 Oakcrest Drive, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: April 29, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 29, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires

five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025
ARNOLD 6-20-25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
JOHN H. KAUPPINEN
CASE NO. 25PR00223
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of John H. Kauppinen aka John Kauppinen aka John Herbert Kauppinen.

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

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

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: July 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept . Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

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

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

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Thomas R. Kauppinen, 989 Grayson Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; (925) 768-1817
Publish: June 6, 13, 20, 2025
KAUPPINEN 6-20-25

TRUSTEE SALE

APN: 130-290-010-539 TS
No: CA05000426-23-4 TO No:

250068519-CA-VOI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED December 3, 2018. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On June 25, 2025 at 11:00 AM, East Entrance, Plumas County Courthouse, 520 Main Street, Quincy, CA 95971, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on December 6, 2018 as Instrument No. 2018-0006683, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Plumas County, California, executed by PATRICK A WHITTEN, AN UNMARRIED MAN, AND TOBI L WHITTEN, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, AS JOINT TENANTS, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as Beneficiary, as nominee for SUMMIT FUNDING, INC. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 39 GRAEAGLE MEADOWS RD, GRAEAGLE, CA 96103 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$167,749.25 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property.

Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may visit the Internet Website address www. Auction.com or call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA05000426-23-4. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021 You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800.280.2832, or visit this internet website www. Auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case CA05000426-23-4 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: May 20, 2025 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA05000426-23-4 12610 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 97104 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: Loan Quema, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www. Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Auction.com at 800.280.2832 NPP0474746 To: GRIDLEY HERALD - PLUMAS 05/30/2025, 06/06/2025, 06/13/2025
GRIDLEY HERALD 6-13-25

APN: 001-104-025-000 TS No.: 25-09078CA TSG Order No.: 250036848-CA-VOI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED JULY 31, 2023. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Affinia Default Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded July 31, 2023 as Document No.: 2023-0019937 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Butte County, California, executed by: Andrew Barnhill, a single man, as Trustor, will be sold AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER for cash (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said deed of trust in the property situated in said county and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced deed of trust. Sale Date: July 2, 2025 Sale Time: 3:30 PM Sale Location: At the main entrance to the Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 2 File No.:25-09078CA The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2907 5th St, Biggs, CA 95917. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness

of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$398,600.53 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call, (866) 826-1670 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website, www.servicelinkauction.com, for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, T.S.# 25-09078CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866) 826-1670, or visit this internet website www.servicelinkauction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-09078CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. 3 File No.:25-09078CA If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. For Pre Sale Information Log On To: www.servicelinkauction.com or Call: (866) 826-1670. For Post Sale Results please visit www.affinadefault.com or Call (866) 932-0360 Dated: May 23, 2025 By: Omar Solorzano Foreclosure Associate Affinia Default Services, LLC 301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 1720 Long Beach, CA 90802 (833) 290-7452 NPP0474739 To: GRIDLEY HERALD 06/06/2025, 06/13/2025, 06/20/2025
GRIDLEY HERALD 6-20-25

BUTTE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

2025-26 BUDGET AND LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN: INSPECTION AND HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the 2025-26 proposed budgets and Local Control and Accountability Plan for the following school districts in Butte County will be available for public inspection on the dates indicated below. Also shown are the dates, times, and locations for the public hearings on the 2025-26 proposed budgets and LCAP.

Biggs Unified School District

Public Inspection: June 6, 2025 to June 11, 2025
300 B Street Biggs, CA 95917

Public Hearing: June 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Biggs Unified School District

300 B Street, Biggs, CA 95917

Gridley Unified School District

Public Inspection: June 6, 2025 to June 10, 2025
429 Magnolia Street, Gridley, CA 95948

Public Hearing: June 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Gridley Unified School District - Board Room

429 Magnolia Street, Gridley, CA 95948

Manzanita Elementary School District

Public Inspection: June 20, 2025 to June 25, 2025

627 E. Evans Reimer Road, Gridley, CA 95948

Public Hearing: June 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Manzanita Elementary School

627 E. Evans Reimer Road, Gridley, CA 95948

The Gridley Herald 5-23, 5-30 and 6-6-2025

THE GRIDLEY HERALD

www.GridleyHerald.com

Why Did the California Senate Shunt a Cost-Cutting Housing Bill?



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Last month, RAND, a prominent think tank based in Santa Monica, published an exhaustive study on housing costs that devastatingly proves how California has been undermining its official goal of increasing production.

After examining more

than 100 multifamily projects in three states, RAND concluded that building them in California is 2.8 times as expensive as in Texas and 1.5 times higher than in Colorado, “with much of the difference driven by state and local policies that contribute to long permitting and construction timelines, and higher local development fees.”

Even more shockingly, RAND found that projects for low-income families cost 1.5 times as much to build as market-rate housing in California and four times the average cost in Texas.

Last week, the California Senate appeared to double down on making

housing development more difficult and costly, shunting a bill aimed at making it easier to build housing for lower-income families by exempting some projects from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Senate Bill 607, carried by state Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, was gutted in the Senate Appropriations Committee, apparently because Senate leaders such as President Pro Tem Mike McGuire caved into fierce opposition from environmental groups and labor unions, which celebrated the move. The committee announced that SB 607’s contents were being stripped out

and replaced by vague language declaring intentions to negotiate further, leaving the fate of the proposal unclear.

Those who either oppose housing projects on environmental grounds or demand concessions, such as requiring them to use union construction labor, have often used — or misused — CEQA as a tool. Over the last half-decade, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom have nibbled at CEQA’s provisions, but when SB 607 was introduced, environmental and labor groups drew an opposition line in the sand.

After the bill was bowdlerized last week, the

coalition praised McGuire and other Senate leaders “for recognizing that the language of SB 607 would have created significant unintended consequences on communities and new legal uncertainties.”

Just days earlier, Newsom had urged the Legislature to pass SB 607 and a similar measure, Assembly Bill 609, as much-needed reforms to increase housing development.

“It’s time to get serious about this issue, period, full stop,” Newsom said. “If you care about your kids you care about getting this done. This is the biggest opportunity to do something big and bold and the

only impediment is us.” The SB 607 blockage may indicate that Newsom is losing clout with the Legislature as he nears lame duck status. However, he could revive the bill as part of the forthcoming negotiations over the state budget, as a statement by Wiener and McGuire suggested.

The RAND study reveals why the state is falling behind.

Dan Walters is one of the 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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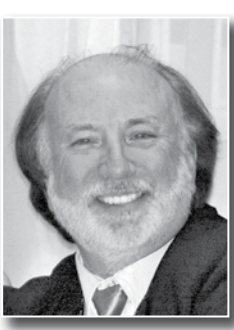
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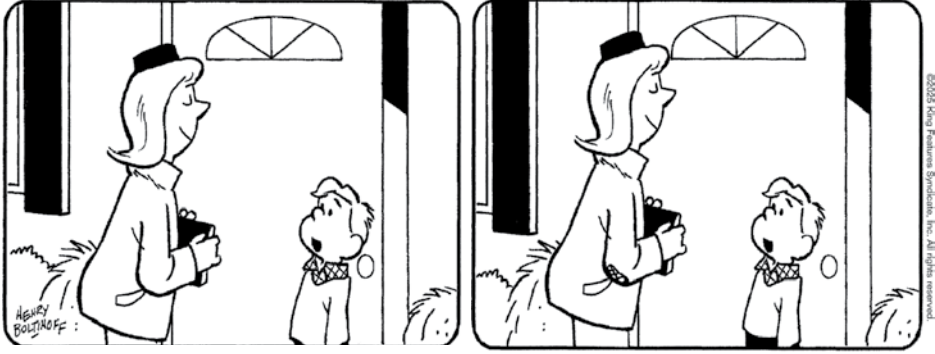


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- Evergreen creeper
- "Fasten" a shoe (2 words)
- Nay, to a baby
- Dryer accumulation, pl.
- Expose to moisture
- White heron
- Sodium hydroxide
- Same as battle-ax
- UN labor grp.
- Like localized disease
- Crab's grabber
- Catcher in the what?
- Food-borne bacteria
- Begone!
- "Fathers and Sons" author
- Not expensive
- Medicinal plant
- Joie de vivre
- Batu Khan's posse
- "Fils' father
- Chicken of the sea
- Tarzan's adoptive dad
- Before, poetically
- Big Bang's original matter

DOWN

- Financing acronym
- Hot rum drink
- *Official flower of Father's Day
- Adjusts
- Minotaur's island
- *Kurt Russell's son of "Thunderbolts" fame
- Tropical tuber
- Stringed instrument
- Slang for heroin
- Marina _____ Rey, CA
- "To do" list
- _____ a high note"
- *Fictional Mr. _____ who banished children's nanny to a doghouse
- Banana refuse, pl.
- Gladys Knight's band member
- *Christopher Robin's father A.A. _____
- Like certain flu
- Church assembly
- Speechless
- Gabriel of Chile
- Administer ceremonial oil
- Chopper blade
- Nile dweller, for short
- Snake-like reef dweller
- *Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic father/son novel (2 words)
- Expatriate
- Dream in the sky
- Climactic stage
- Nearsighted one
- Degrees in right angle
- Prolific Swiss mathematician
- Ten million, in India
- Mercantile establishment
- This location
- Cassette contents
- Twelfth month of Jewish calendar
- Rooftop contraption
- Cuban dance step
- "Platoon" setting, for short

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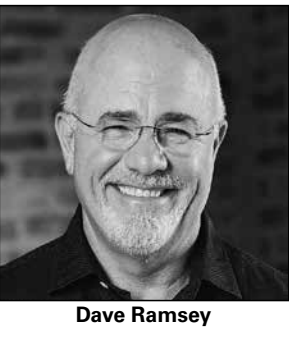
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Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

How do you feel about moving credit card balances to other companies to get lower rates when you’re trying to get out of debt? I just paid off my first credit card, and a friend suggested this idea for paying off the others faster.

– Von

Dear Von,

Lots of people think they’ve really done something big to solve their debt problems when they do this. And I’m sure your friend is trying to help with this suggestion, but you’ve got to remember that getting out of debt, and gaining control of your finances, is all about changing the habits of the person you see in the mirror every day. You’ve got to make a commitment to a lifestyle change that includes getting out of debt, *staying* out of debt,

Dave Ramsey Says The Face in the Mirror

and sticking to a written, monthly budget. That includes keeping track of every, single dollar, giving it a job to do *and* living on less than you make.

Now, your friend’s idea *might* help speed up the process a tiny bit. But the habits that got you into debt in the first place won’t change just because you’ve switched credit card companies. What you’re talking about is an easy way to lower the interest rates—temporarily, in most cases—but it doesn’t change your everyday behavior with money.

When people have problems with debt, it’s often the result of dumb financial choices and living above their means. I’ve run into so many folks who got into trouble with money just because they wanted to impress other people. But guess what? When *you* change, interest rates don’t matter nearly as

much. And when you shift your mindset about money, it will make a *huge* difference in a way that changing credit card companies and chasing lower interest rates can’t.

I hope this helps, Von. And take a look at my Baby Steps plan while you’re at it. I promise, if you follow those steps, it will help you move forward, get ahead and put you on the road to a debt-free life and financial peace!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

And so, the heat begins! The shades are down on the patio to protect the plants that get unhappy with direct hot sun. The Crimson Queen maple in the front behind the new Torii gate is protected by reed fencing. It is just enough to cut the direct hot sun. That tree gets hit with full West sun from about 2 to sundown in the summer. Needless to say,

this is not an ideal place for this tree. It used to be protected by the branches of a birch tree that I let grow very long. That tree was leaning very badly and we took it out. I knew when I had the Torii gate built that it could double as a shade helper. I’ve attached the reed fencing to hang over the top so there is front protection. Then we put up a frame structure to hold the reed fencing over the top of the tree. I’m very happy with this solution.

Friends and I went up to Auburn to the very large Green Acres nursery. It is the old Eiseley’s nursery that used to develop plants for other nurseries. The prices there are great because

the new company Green Acres is so large it can order in huge amounts to keep the costs down. I of course ended up buying another Japanese maple tree. It has the great name of Geisha Gone Wild. It has All the greenhouses are still on site in Auburn and appear to be used. This is a great day trip for gardeners.

Green Thumb Garden thanks all of you who came to the plant booth on Red Suspender’s Day. We were successful in funding our scholarships to Biggs and Gridley Highs for another year.

Remember to water your plants well as they adjust to the oncoming heat. Summer Solstice is on the horizon. ★



California Unveils Wolf Mapping Tool to Help Avoid Conflicts with Livestock

California ranchers have a new mapping tool designed to provide regular location information on GPS-collared gray wolves in the state to help prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. Provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the wolf tracker shows the approximate location of collared wolves across the state. “Knowing where California’s collared wolf population is means that ranchers have access to critical information,” said California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass. “We appreciate CDFW’s focus on transparency to help farmers and ranchers navigate the growing number of wolves in the state.”

Grower Uses New Tech to Save Water and Improve Crop Health

Yolo County farmer Ray Yeung has found success implementing new technology on his farm to improve water efficiency and keep tomato plants healthy during the transplanting process. Yeung uses a system developed by California tomato processor Morning Star that photographs tomato plants and uses an algorithm to assess their water needs. “It’s a total game changer,” Yeung told Ag Alert® this month in a From the Fields report. Meanwhile, a Japanese product applied to plants to prevent heat damage has enabled Yeung to plant some of his crop later in the season when temperatures are higher. “I’m always willing to try something new,” he said.

California Farmers and Distillers Embrace Drought-Tolerant Agave

As California farmers look for drought-tolerant crops, production of agave, the key ingredient in tequila—or mezcal, as the spirits are called when produced outside a specific region in Mexico—has gained momentum in the Golden State. In just a few years, more than 80 farmers have started growing agave, with some 700 acres in production. “This is about finding a climate-resilient crop in a state that is struggling with water management,” said Fresno County farmer Stuart Woolf, who pulled out almond trees to plant 350 acres of agave. “It’s the right crop at the right time for California.”

California Apricots Move from the Can to the Produce Aisle

The apricot’s fragile nature and short shelf life have long been its Achilles’ heel. That’s why most of the state’s crop has traditionally been used for canning, drying and freezing. But California growers have made major inroads in elevating apricots as a fresh fruit. Whereas 8% to 16% of the crop was sold fresh in the 1980s, roughly 50% goes to the fresh market today. Various factors have led to the change, including cannery closures, improved fresh varieties and efforts to adapt to consumer preferences. “We’re working on fruit that tastes good,” Stanislaus County farmer and packer Dave Santos said, “something that the consumer will want to buy and come back and buy again.” ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



At the end of every NBA season and playoffs, there are 29 disappointed franchises. That’s 29 cities in America that are not celebrating. It’s always been that way, and it probably always will be. Only one winner, one champion, can be crowned.

Many Sacramento Kings fans are closely watching the playoffs, where defense has taken center stage. The Boston Celtics, for example, struggled after losing star Jayson Tatum to an Achilles tear in Game 4 against the Knicks.

That same intense defense has been the dominant factor in nearly every playoff series this year, and the Indiana Pacers New York Nick series was clear evidence that defense wins the day.

Long wing players that can move and play help defense will be coveted as the off-season trades begin, and Sacramento will be right in the mix of it.

The Kings feature an upcoming Keon Ellis and Keegan Murray who fit the skill model, but the real question is can the Kings retain these players and build around them with more of the same.

Two players that have been prominently mentioned are Jrue Holiday of the Boston Celtics, and Herb Jones of the Charlotte Hornets. Holiday at age 34 may be on the other side of his prime, so look for the Kings to have more interest in Jones who at 6’7” is 3 inches taller and only 26 years old.

The Pelicans have indicated that they are in trade mode, so Herb Jones may be wearing a different Jersey in November.

The question is what Charlotte would want in return for a player on the way up, and the answer is someone of the caliber of Malik Monk. Like DeAaron Fox, Monk is a fan favorite, whether this trade would be popular among fans remains to be seen. At the end of the day, fans need to brace themselves as the likelihood of several changes remains strong.

New GM Scott Perry is playing his cards close to the vest. Although the Sacramento faithful would like some direction, Perry will start making moves when he’s ready. About the only thing that he has really indicated is that the Kings need a point guard. It’s unlikely that a new GM will roll the dice on a second-year player like

Devin Carter and hope that he can break-out and be the starting point guard that can replace DeAaron Fox.

The NBA finals begin on Thursday, and fans will be treated to two teams that feature some of the best defense you are likely see. Look for low scoring physical games, with the referees swallowing the whistle more and more. The focus will be on the long wing players and the number of times they can get their hands on the ball.

Every Sacramento Kings fan is eager to know Scott Perry’s plans, and I’m hoping he’s considering building around Domantas Sabonis and Jonas Valanciunas. Not only do both have dominant skills they pose all kinds of problems for teams that like to drive the lane. With both Sabonis and Valanciunas, Perry has more options and can play these two side by side from time to time.

With the #5 spot already secured, the Kings need to target the point guard position and try to add one longer wing player like the aforementioned Herb Jones.

Whether trades begin in earnest now or after the finals conclude, be assured the Kings have moves in mind. That means surprises are in store, but very soon Sacramento fans are going to see the acumen of Scott Perry in full view.

It seems like a lifetime since the Kings went deep into the playoffs, but a capable GM and staff can make a difference, so this writer remains optimistic that the 2025/2026 version of the Sacramento Kings can be something to be proud of.

Grow the young players that we have. Covet them and don’t waste them in meaningless trades and fill in the bland spots where the Kings have obvious needs.

Seems simple, but it is anything but. Nonetheless, it’s always possible that Christmas may come early just as the Dallas Mavericks discovered in the recent NBA draft.

So, let’s see if Scott Perry can catch lightning in a bottle, and Sacramento can celebrate once again.

Keep the faith Kings fans. I still believe the best is yet to come!

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

SPARKY'S CORNER Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the #1 priority for residents is to get out safely.

Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

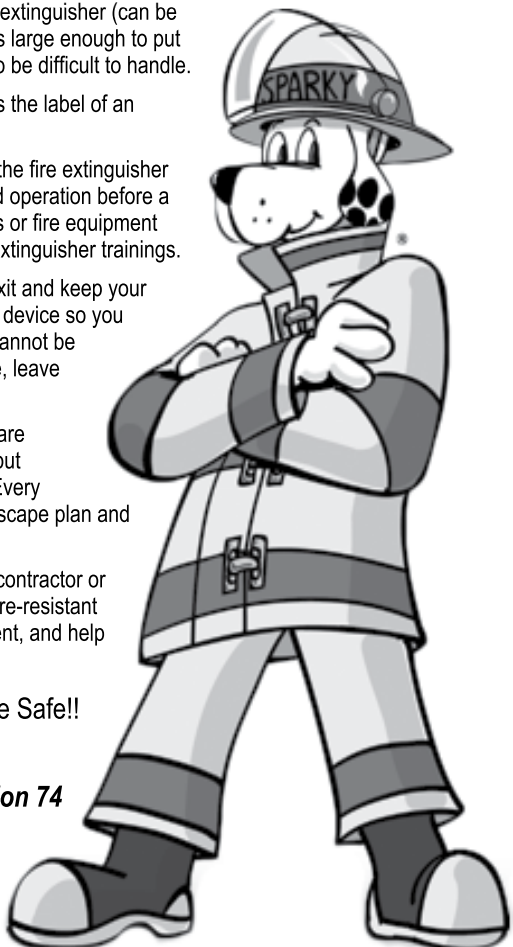
SAFETY TIPS

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:
- **Pull** the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **Aim** low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **Squeeze** the lever slowly and evenly.
- **Sweep** the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

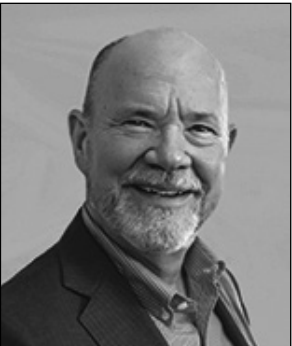
Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county extension service for advice on fire-resistant plants that are suited for your environment, and help to plan your landscape.

Thank You, and Be Safe!!

Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74



California Commentary: Support the Save Proposition 13 Act of 2026



The Save Proposition 13 Act of 2026 will reverse court-created loopholes, restoring the tax relief first started with Proposition 13. Photo Courtesy of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

By Jon Coupal, President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Starting in 1978 with the passage of Proposition 13, California voters have repeatedly tried to protect their homes and businesses from excessive taxation by imposing limits on property taxes and requiring two-thirds voter approval for other local taxes that disproportionately burden homeowners and businesses. Despite the clear intent of the voters, California courts have sided with the government and its special interest benefactors by creating loopholes that significantly weakened these protections.

Taxpayers are fighting back. The Save Prop. 13 Act of 2026 will reverse these court-created loopholes and restore the tax relief first started with Proposition 13.

In 2017, the California Supreme Court’s decision in California Cannabis Coalition v. City of Upland created an ambiguity as to whether the state constitution applies to local citizens’ initiatives in the same way it applies to measures placed on the ballot by a government body. Since that time, all kinds of unconstitutional taxes – backed

by tax-and-spend special interests – have been imposed on Californians costing billions of dollars that they would not have had to pay if the courts followed the letter and the spirit of the law.

Virtually all the appellate courts have used the Upland loophole to allow unconstitutional new taxes to take effect. Despite our efforts to have the Supreme Court resolve the issue definitively, it has not. This statewide initiative will not only restore taxpayer rights, but it will also provide clarity in the law upholding the two-thirds vote protection.

Since Upland, several local initiative tax increases have been declared “approved” despite falling short of Proposition 13’s two-thirds vote requirement for special taxes (taxes dedicated to a specific purpose). The Upland loophole has allowed special interest groups to write initiatives that raise taxes, direct the money to themselves, and pass them with just a simple majority. The same tax increase proposed by a City Council or County Board of Supervisors would require a two-thirds vote of the electorate to pass. The Save Prop. 13 Act will amend the state constitution to restore and reinforce the taxpayer protections that voters adopted when they passed Proposition 13.

Of particular concern to all property owners is the explosion in higher real estate transfer taxes. For decades, even before Prop. 13, taxes on the sale or transfer of real property were limited to \$1.10 per \$1,000 of property value. However, since Prop. 13’s passage, many cities began imposing real estate transfer taxes in excess of \$45 per \$1,000 of value. Even

worse, because of the infamous Upland decision, local governments operating under the guise of “citizen groups” can propose “special taxes” by initiative, evading the requirement of a two-thirds vote of the electorate to pass. And while the courts originally said transfer tax revenue must go into a municipality’s general fund, special taxes under Upland can be exclusively directed to whatever the local government, or special interest group, wants. The worst abuse of Upland occurred in Los Angeles where, because of Measure United to House LA, high-value properties are now subject to very high transfer taxes.

Because transfer taxes impose a form of “equity theft,” Prop. 13 was intended to prohibit transfer taxes and expressly stated so. But in another judicial ruling, the courts concluded that Prop. 13 only prohibited “special” transfer taxes intended for a specific purpose. For that reason, most cities choose to stay within the pre-existing state limit of \$1.10 per \$1,000. But the real abuse occurred when some charter cities imposed transfer taxes that exceed the state limit, especially those which exploited the Upland loophole, such as the United to House LA tax.

The Save Prop. 13 Act prohibits the Charter City loophole from being used in the future and also invalidates general transfer taxes that exceed the state limit, ending Measure United to House LA.

While there is much for taxpayer advocates to do to achieve comprehensive tax relief, the Save Prop. 13 Act of 2026 closes the major loopholes punched in California’s most important and iconic taxpayer reform – Proposition 13. ★

Government Driving Gas Prices Through the Roof



Senator Ted Gaines

By Ted Gaines

California’s Progressive political elite hate fossil fuels so much they are willing to impoverish their citizens to punish “Big Oil” and speed up a transition to an even more expensive green energy future.

Governor Newsom wants zero gas-powered cars sold in California by 2035, which sends a strong signal to refiners about the long-term value of investment in the Golden State. The state makes permitting for refinery expansion or upgrades extraordinarily difficult and time-consuming for oil companies. On top of that, California has high labor costs and the highest corporate tax rate in the western states. Our electricity costs are among the highest in the country, making it tough for power-intensive refineries to operate profitably.

All of these headwinds are created by policy decisions from Sacramento, and they make California a rough place to succeed for the oil industry, on purpose.

It appears the oil industry is getting the message and California consumers will soon be paying the price. Two major oil refiners recently announced they are ceasing operations in the state. What will this mean for people at the pump?

A recent study by Michael A. Mische at the University of Southern California highlights the looming affordability crisis, finding that the closure of Phillips 66 and Valero refineries will slash California’s refining capacity by 21 percent by 2026, potentially driving prices to \$7.35 to \$8.44 per gallon.

Newsom and the other green energy devotees in the legislature are always quick to blame the oil industry for price gouging or financial trickery every time gas prices go up, and every few years they announce another commission to study what the greedy corporations are doing to make our gas so expensive.

But California’s gas prices, the highest in the nation at \$4.82 per gallon as of April, are a direct result of the state’s own policies, not corporate greed.

If oil companies were gouging, why are prices in neighboring western states like Nevada (\$3.85) or Arizona (\$3.30) significantly lower? Are the companies somehow less greedy in other states? Does that make sense to anyone?

It’s easy to see why Californians pay so much for gas. California’s unique blend requirements, cap and trade fees, and \$1.47 per gallon in taxes and regulatory costs, set to rise to \$2.83 by 2026, explain

the disparity. No other western state stacks on so many costs.

The state’s own attorney general found no evidence of widespread price gouging, confirming that California’s policies, not corporate profits, are the culprit. I’m sure when gas hits \$8 per gallon, they will convene another task force to overlook the obvious.

High fuel prices are a regressive tax that hit poor and rural Californians the hardest. For the poor, gas already takes up a larger share of low-income budgets. This will make that fact dramatically worse. Rural Californians drive longer distances for work, school, or essentials, often in larger vehicles like trucks needed for agricultural, construction or industrial work.

But even though the harm will be more concentrated on some groups, every working Californian and every industry will feel the pain of the gas price sticker shock.

California must reverse course.

Without reforming its business climate and drawing refiners back, the state risks not only economic stagnation but making Californians poorer as they bear the cost of Sacramento’s ideological crusade.

Ret. Senator Ted Gaines was elected to represent the Board of Equalization’s First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate, defender of Proposition 13 and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly 10 million constituents in 34 counties of Northern, Eastern and Southern California. For more information, visit boe.ca.gov/Gaines. ★

SB 84 Heads to Senate Vote, A Crucial Test for Small Businesses

By Victor Gomez, Executive Director, California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - This week, California lawmakers will have another opportunity to advance a bill that could drastically improve the landscape for small business owners across the state.

Senate Bill 84, which recently cleared the Senate Judiciary and Senate Appropriations Committees, will have the chance to move from the Senate to the State Assembly for its passage. This development marks another critical hurdle for a bill that if enacted, will ease the burden that lawsuit abuse has on our local small businesses.

At its core, SB 84 is a common-sense proposal aimed to curb predatory lawsuits that exploit the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If passed, the bill would give small businesses, those with 50 or fewer employees, a 120-day window to correct alleged accessibility violations before a lawsuit could be filed. This simple reform could dramatically reduce the number of frivolous, costly legal actions that continue to threaten mom-and-pop shops across our state.

The bill is not about rolling back ADA protections.



Victor Gomez is the executive director of the California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. Courtesy photo

It’s inherently about fairness. Thousands of small business owners support the goals of the ADA and are eager to comply, but too often, they’re blindsided by lawsuits dealing with technical infractions they never knew existed in the first place. Instead of being given time to address the issue, they’re dragged into court and forced to pay settlements many can’t afford.

These lawsuits don’t just hurt our business owners. They close community institutions, cost jobs and discourage new investment in our neighborhoods. They also discredit the real purpose of accessibility laws by turning them into tools for personal profit rather than public good.

Last year, a similar bill, SB 585, died in the Assembly without even receiving a hearing. That can’t happen again. For the sake of all our small business communities across the state, SB 84 must become law in 2025.

With the full California State Senate poised to take up this bill in just a few short days, this is a test of whether California’s elected officials are serious about supporting small businesses or wish to remain content with letting them be sued into submission. We ask that our senators stand up for both accessibility and economic fairness and vote SB 84 through the Senate and onward to the Assembly. ★

California Voters Strongly Back Trump’s Position on Medicaid

Protect Our Health Care Coalition News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As the debate over federal Medicaid funding heats up, a new poll by President Donald Trump’s pollster Jim McLaughlin, commissioned by Swing Strategies in partnership with the Protect Our Health Care Coalition, finds that voters in five Trump-carried, GOP-held California congressional districts overwhelmingly oppose cuts to Medicaid.

Among the key findings include support for Medicaid is nearly universal with 87% approval, including 78% from Trump voters. Findings also show that 83% of voters agree with President Trump when he has repeatedly said that Congress should not cut Medicaid, including 85% of independent suburban women and 84% of Hispanic voters.

Polls showed that 70% say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who cuts Medicaid funding.

“This data underscores a clear

opportunity for Republican leaders to further broaden the new Republican coalition that made significant gains in 2024 with Black, Hispanic and young voters,” said Jim McLaughlin, president and partner at McLaughlin and Associates. “President Trump’s position on Medicaid reflects where voters already are,” which is to leave Medicaid alone.

Surveyed districts include California’s First Congressional District (LaMalfa), a safe Republican and rural district;

California’s Third Congressional District (Kiley), a suburban GOP-held district; California’s 22nd Congressional District (Valadao), a GOP-held Central Valley district with a 14-point Democratic registration advantage; California’s 40th Congressional District (Kim), a competitive Orange County district that leans Republican; and California’s 41st Congressional District (Calvert), a GOP-held Inland Empire district with nearly even Democratic and Republican registration. ★

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Meet Your Juke Box Heroes

Foreigner Returns with a Hit-Packed Night of Unforgettable Anthems

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - When Foreigner rolls into Wheatland on June 21 as part of their farewell tour, fans at the Hard Rock Live Sacramento are in for more than just a night of classic rock hits. They'll also witness a powerful blend of nostalgia and new voices as Lincoln High School's choir joins the legendary band on stage for their iconic ballad, "I Want to Know What Love Is."

For keyboardist Michael Bluestein, who has been with the band since 2008, the farewell tour is a culmination of a musical journey that spans decades, continents and generations.

"It's definitely a night of hits," Bluestein said. "Generally, we find that people know every song we play. It's very exciting, a lot of energy. We look forward to seeing everybody and we hope they bring their energy because we feed off that too."

Since forming in the mid-1970s, Foreigner has built a catalog of enduring rock anthems such as "Juke Box Hero," "Cold as Ice" and "Hot Blooded." Their farewell tour marks a milestone and celebrates a nearly 50-year legacy that Bluestein describes as "the soundtrack of my childhood and teenage years."

Originally trained in classical and jazz piano, Bluestein's career has taken him through a wide spectrum of musical genres, from touring with Enrique Iglesias to jamming in funky San Francisco jam bands. But stepping into Foreigner's lineup felt like coming home.

"When I got the offer, it was too good of an opportunity to pass up," Bluestein said. "These are songs I grew up with. I had a 'pinch me' moment playing 'Juke Box Hero' for the first time, it's a really dramatic part of the



Foreigner performs Friday, June 21 at Hard Rock Casino Live Sacramento venue as part of their Farewell Tour. Photo courtesy of Foreigner

set with the lighting going low and it's a very intense, kind of moody, section before the song really explodes."

Over the years, the band's extensive touring has brought them to nearly every corner of the world, from Red Rocks in Colorado to amphitheaters in Switzerland and Germany. Still, Northern California holds a special place for Bluestein, who once lived in San Francisco.

"I think the enthusiasm in NorCal is always great," Bluestein said. "We're really psyched to be back up there."

This tour is the last with long-time lead vocalist Kelly Hansen, who has fronted the band for nearly two decades. The band announced the news live on the finale of the "The Voice" on May 20 and broke the news that guitarist Luis Maldonado will step into the role of lead singer.

"Kelly will be doing the shows through like early fall so he still has a lot of shows left with us.

We're sad to see him go, he has been such an anchor and a big part of the taking this band to new heights and keeping us so consistently at such a high level, so we are so thankful to him and his contributions." Bluestein said. "Luis Maldonado, our guitarist, is stepping up as the new lead singer. He's a great guy and a phenomenal musician. We're in good hands."

Now, as the band enters its final stretch with Hansen, Bluestein reflects on the enduring power of Foreigner's music.

"These songs are just so well-crafted, so memorable. Lou Gramm's voice, the songwriting, the production, they were all magic," Bluestein said. "They've been imprinted on people's lives."

With decades of touring behind them, the members of Foreigner have found ways to keep their energy high. On show days, Bluestein meditates, others do yoga or stretching, and everyone

focuses on staying rested and balanced.

"It's about staying healthy out there. Connecting with family and friends," Bluestein said.

One of the most moving moments of each show on this tour comes when Foreigner invites a local high school choir on stage for "I Want to Know What Love Is." In Wheatland, that honor belongs to the students at Lincoln High School, led by retiring choir director Cindy Hagman.

"I just about fell off the couch when we were first asked in 2014," Hagman recalled. "This is the fourth time we've been invited and the last during my career. It's an incredible honor."

Hagman, who has led the choir for 25 years, sees this as a rare and invaluable opportunity for her students to be part of something unforgettable. Each year, a different group of students get to perform and this year 25 students are going. Hagman explained

that performers are usually all seniors but this year since the choir program was smaller so the opportunity to younger students as opened.

"It's not something everybody gets to do. For them to be on stage with a band like Foreigner, to look out over thousands of people, it's life-changing," Hagman said. "And it validates everything we do as music educators."

The partnership is part of Foreigner's ongoing campaign to support music education and raise awareness about the vital role of arts in schools. Each participating school receives a donation to support their music programs.

"The arts are always the first to be cut," Bluestein said. "This is a way to give back and help keep those programs alive. A lot of us in the band came through public school music programs, we got a chance to really explore music when we were young boys in school and it's a chance for younger generations to experience that too."

For students, the performance is about more than the music, it's about self-expression, confidence and connection.

"They're singing a message," Hagman said. "We work on what the song means so they can sing from the heart. That's when it really becomes transformative."

The impact reaches far beyond the stage. One former student who participated in the performance years ago now leads a band of his own, inspired by the experience of singing with Foreigner as a teenager.

"It changed his life," Hagman said. "And now it's doing the same for a new generation."

Foreigner performs Friday, June 21 at Hard Rock Casino Live venue, 3317 Forty Mile Road, Wheatland at 8 p.m. ★



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