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FRIDAY • JULY 11, 2025 • VOL. 145 NO. 28

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A Grand Flag

Joseph Waterbury Electric's Patriotism Lights Up Gridley



Joseph and Kelly Waterbury stand with their children, Fiona (left) and Theo (right), in front of their business, home to a giant American flag. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley's Highway 99 corridor has been relatively dusty and grim as of late, with construction spanning from the south to north ends of our small community marring the scenery.

As the month of June wrapped, local family-man and business owner Joseph Waterbury made a move to correct that and not only raise our hometown spirits but honor our nation at the same time.

Waterbury recently restored a flagpole and erected a massive 20 x 30

American flag outside his business, Joseph Waterbury Electric Inc., which parallels the highway. As motorists enter the south end of town or leave Gridley, the large red-white-and blue flag waves brilliantly and proudly against the sky with little to detract from it.

A member of the Waterbury family has been serving Gridley's electrical needs for the last few decades, beginning with Russel Waterbury, Joseph's grandfather who ran North Valley Electric. The business was handed down to Joseph's father, Stan Waterbury, who changed the name to



Joseph Waterbury Electric uses its truck to help string and raise the giant 20' x 30' American flag recently installed outside the business. Photo courtesy of Kelly Waterbury

Waterbury Electric in 1982.

Joseph would learn the trade through apprenticing alongside his father and then obtain his own licensing, eventually opening Joseph Waterbury Electric Inc. in 2019.

Joseph told the Herald that his father had erected a similar flag in the early 1990s as conflicts in the Middle East progressed. It was met with community pride and engagement, even finding itself the subject of a past Gridley Herald article.

Joseph shared that community members Chris Richins, Jose

Continued on page 3

Biggs Residents Voice Concerns

By Connie Voss

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - At the most recent Biggs City Council meeting on June 30, a good share of the time was spent hearing matters from local citizens.

Resident John Crawford expressed concerns about potential fire hazards on a property located at 2985 First St.

"It's an imminent fire danger that needs to be addressed prior to the Fourth of July... there have been outstanding code violations for three years," Crawford said.

Another resident thanked the council for the partial repair of her driveway but inquired as to why the remaining portion and sidewalk had not been repaired. The resident claimed that \$130,000 of city funds could have been used for this purpose but were supposedly lost as of the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Amanda Mattos had questions about when Kory Hamman's affordable housing project, which proposed the development of a 42-unit apartment complex and 18 single-swelling units on 6th Street, could be brought to council and voted on again.

In addition, Mattos indicated that she had been unduly charged \$25 for a building permit to replace a shared fence on her property "and felt targeted" by an unnamed city official. Interim City Administrator Cliff Wagner, who was serving his last day in that capacity, explained that posts or structural changes were made to the fence and it was therefore subject to a building permit.

Former Biggs Mayor Brian Bassett shared information about the yearly fireworks show that his company, Legend Soundworks has put on for the last 12 years. Costs for fireworks skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bassett said that the cost of this year's fireworks were to be paid for by the North State Relief Fund, a nonprofit supposedly held by former City Administrator Josh Cook.

Bassett said that Cook allegedly withdrew his offer later and there were insufficient funds available for this year's event, despite some private donations.

Realtor Kari Wheeler gave an update on the home she is selling at 2985 First St., previously

Continued on page 2

Tennis Anyone?

By Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - At the school board meeting on June 26, several residents addressed the board about the decision to gut the tennis program at Gridley High School. Reasons for the discontinuation were given as the team being too small, too expensive and too hard to get coaches according to the administrators at the meeting on May 28.

Once again, speakers took to the microphone to express their opposition. The issue was not part of the agenda for the June 26 meeting, although that had been requested, according to the speakers.

Caleb Stewart, Leticia Stewart, Robert McDowell and Gridley City Councilmember Catalina Sanchez spoke in support of keeping the tennis teams.

Caleb Stewart indicated that the Gridley High School tennis team is not the smallest team at the school, citing the cross

country and wrestling teams as smaller. Wrestling is the most expensive team, according to Caleb Stewart.

"It is obvious that you have some ulterior motive for cancelling the tennis teams. This community would appreciate hearing the real reasons, instead of lame excuses," said Caleb Stewart.

Caleb Stewart continued by saying that with the number of people who showed up at the last

meeting about the matter, it should have been on the agenda for this meeting.

"It's a shame that you're not doing your job," Caleb Stewart concluded.

In response to the need for a coach, Robert McDowell, who previously coached the teams in 1999 and 2000, volunteered his coaching services for two years in order to keep the teams.

Leticia Stewart spoke emphatically, "We've given answers for every

reason that you have for canceling the tennis team. We are really disappointed that you canceled a program without public knowledge. You did not try any problem solving like finding grants or talking with the city to find funding like we are trying to do. Worst of all you have disenfranchised the students who bravely stood up and shared personal reasons of why they wanted and even needed the tennis teams.

Continued on page 3



Several residents addressed the Gridley Unified School District board members about the decision to gut the tennis program at Gridley High School. Photo by SoyKhalar via Pixabay

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

A wise woman once told me that I should never ever talk to young people about what my life was like when I was a young person. Every day, this advice has proven to be true. I've been reading some of the latest research from Kayla Scanlon, a young person who has been studying Generation Z, or the group of people born between 1997 and 2012. It's not so much that the world my generation grew up in was so spectacularly different. It is that the rate at which the world changes now is much faster than it was before. There have been a couple of interesting examples in the last few weeks that explain this. Several people were complaining that

funding for the expansion of the Internet into rural places might be cut in the legislation going through the federal government. Those people complaining have not figured out that the new satellite-based Internet that Elon Musk is putting up will make it so that putting cables in the ground is something that will never happen. Developing nations won't put up copper telephone lines, and then replace them with fiber optic lines, and then replace them with cellular towers. Within the next three years, phones will simply work because satellites are in the sky. Another data point was the great celebration by the politicians in Sacramento because they found a way to force phone-based applications that allow people to be picked up and dropped off to be subject to forced unionization. Meanwhile, driverless cars are picking up and dropping off people in San Francisco and Los Angeles right now, and within the next three years, they will be everywhere. Within five to six years, long-haul truck driving will not be a profession. Homes will be built by robots, and legal

documents will be written without a lawyer. Cars will be flying with no pilots by 2035. Moon travel will be common in their lifetimes. This generation started school with no video conferencing and has seen that become normal. The average age at which a person buys a home has gone from about 36 years old to 56 years old in less than a decade. The next generation also drinks a lot less alcohol, gambles much less and they don't get married until their late 30s. The old grumpy men used to say things "just aren't like they used to be" (usually after a young man with long hair walked by). This hastened rate of change is something different; this is change, though measurable, which is not something for which we have words. So, if you find yourself talking to a young person, realize that their world is nothing like your world, and the amount of change you witnessed in 50 years of living, the Gen Z kids have seen and will see every three to five years.

Josh F.W. Cook was born on Spruce Street in Gridley.

Sanner Returns from Mission

By Lena Sanna

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Elder Greyson Sanner returns next week from his mission to Jacksonville, Florida.

Elder Sanner has been serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint and has been teaching the gospel in both the Spanish and English languages.

He will report about his experiences Sunday July 20 at 10 a.m. in the Liberty 1st ward that meets at the building located at 1259 French Ave.

We invite all who would like to see and hear from him to attend.

★



Elder Sanner are with his mission leaders, President Ken and Mary Elbert. Courtesy photo

Biggs Residents Voice Concerns

Continued from page 1

referenced by Crawford.

"All I want for the city of Biggs is for it to look nice. And so that is my goal," said Wheeler about the property's cleanliness. "As fast as I could, we did get it (the weeds) taken care of the rubbish that's still on will be removed as well, too...Hopefully we'll get something real pretty in there soon."

Crawford countered by saying his issue was with the new house and not the old house.

"That house needs to be condemned," Crawford said. "That site should be brought forward and past fines should be brought forward to motivate the

owner (to clean up the property)."

Consent items for the council consisted of ratifying the employment for new Interim City Administrator Rodney Harr and adopting the proposed city budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Regarding the budget, Interim City Administrator Wagner said, "The electrical fund remains an area of financial concern, financial exposure. We have one customer that constitutes 49% of your customer base. By definition, the technical term for that is freakishly risky: off-the-charts risk."

Councilmember Anita Wilks had questions about

the half million-dollar deficit in the budget and recommended re-evaluating priorities and goals for the coming fiscal year. Wilks further suggested removing Object Codes 1010 and 1020 to help offset the deficit and thanked Wagner for the 155 suggestions for improvements that Wagner had proposed.

Wagner emphasized that the budget can be revisited and adjusted as necessary.

Councilmember Doug Arnold proposed a budget study session "in the very near future."

Voting was 3-1 for approval, with Councilmember Wilks dissenting.

★

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Atteberry Memorial Tournament Saturday!

By Seti Long

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The 20th annual Joshua Atteberry Memorial Family Softball Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, July 12 at the Biggs High School baseball field. The tournament honors the memory of Biggs’ Joshua Atteberry and raises money for scholarships in his name and goes to support youth programs in the community, such as Vacation Bible School and the Gridley Band. The event is family-friendly and open to all ages. Donations of \$10 are requested from potential players and signup begins at 9 a.m., with the game starting at 10 a.m. Teams are picked on the spot, and play is relaxed and geared for ultimate family fun! Creative rules, such as guaranteed home runs for children T-ball aged and under, add another layer of glee for young players. Joshua’s mother, Melissa Jesmer wrote

in a social media post on July 9, “Saturday, as we take the field and gather together for this tournament, we will carry the spirit of someone who will always be a part of our team—Joshua.” She continued, “We miss him every day, but this Saturday we will honor him not with silence, but with joy—with the crack of the bat, the shouts from the dugout, and the smiles of every child who reminds us of the light Joshua carried.” The family and organizers encourage the community to join them this weekend in honoring Joshua’s life, while raising money for worthy causes. In addition to the game, prizes will be raffled off for \$1 per ticket and a Benelli Shotgun up for grabs for \$20 per raffle ticket. For more information, please visit the Facebook page Joshua Atteberry Memorial Family Softball Tournament. ★

Colors of His Love Music Camp July 14 – July 20

By Gridley Christian Church

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Christian Church will hold the Colors of His Love Music Camp July 14 through 20. The children will have a fun week of singing, Bible lessons, rhythm instruments, crafts, song-bells, sign language memory verse, hand bells, simple choreography,

snacks and recreation. Children 4 years old through 8th grade are welcome to come and learn about how much God loves them. Monday through Friday we will be meeting from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday’s dress rehearsal is from 1 to 2 p.m. for the four-song mini-musical the children will present on Sunday. 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. Call Bonnie at 530-933-9845 to register your child and for more information. To speak with Pastor Ed call 530-846-4002. Gridley Christian Church is located at 580 Washington Street and is a place where everyone is family. ★

State Route 99 Rehabilitation Project Underway

California Department of Transportation News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is currently working on a major \$27.3 million pavement and complete streets project on State Route 99 through the heart of the city of Gridley. This project will improve roadway conditions, enhance safety and upgrade pedestrian and bicycle access along the corridor. Caltrans understands that construction work can be disruptive, and the department appreciates your patience as it and our contractor work to make these improvements through town. You will hear increased noise during construction activities, especially during nighttime and early morning hours.

We apologize for those inconveniences but working during daytime hours is not feasible due to traffic impacts. Caltrans appreciates your patience and understanding as crews work to deliver these valuable upgrades. This project is made possible through a partnership between Caltrans and the City of Gridley, working together to create a safer and more accessible route for all users. Thank you for your understanding as we build a better highway for your community. To provide quiet during

the upcoming noisy nights, Caltrans is providing free ear plugs that will be available at Gridley City Hall for residents affected by construction noise. Construction began in November 2024 and it is expected to be completed in October 2026. The construction work pauses during the winter months due to colder temperatures and wet conditions. For this project, major construction efforts are expected to continue through November, with crews expected to resume in March 2026 if the weather allows. Caltrans thanks you for your continued patience throughout the construction season. For project updates and more information, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-projects/d3-sr-99-gridley-pavement-rehab> ★

A Grand Flag



Waterbury twins, Theo and Fiona, point to a clipping from a past Gridley Herald Newspaper documenting when their grandfather, Stan Waterbury, erected the original flag outside the family business, which inspired their father to follow suit. Photo by Seti Long

Continued from page 1 Santillan and Ernie Santillan assisted his father in installing the flagpole and hoisting the original colors. The electrician’s motivations ran deep, as Joseph wanted to pay tribute to his country, his father and continue the family legacy by raising the red, white and blue. “We just kind of hope that it’s (the flag) a thing that the people of Gridley can look to and unite us,” said Joseph. Since the flag was raised, reactions from the public, whether in person or social media, have been overwhelmingly positive. “Patriotism is needed,” added Joseph’s wife, Kelly Waterbury. She said that the family has received so much supportive feedback from the community since the flag went up.

“One guy called and said, ‘I don’t need your service but now that I see your flag out, when I do, I’ll be calling.’” Waterbury shared that his motivations run deep but ultimately wanted to pay tribute to his country and father. Joseph would reveal the flag to his father in what would be a very emotional and full-circle moment for the pair. Joseph and Kelly’s twin children, Fiona and Theo both shared their excitement with the Herald in regard to the giant flag outside their father’s shop. “It’s BIG!!” exclaimed Theo about the flag and so appeared to be their pride in it judging by their huge smiles. Joseph Waterbury Electric’s flag can be viewed at 1290 Highway 99. To schedule an appointment, call 530-434-1929. ★

Tennis Anyone?

Continued from page 1 You did not acknowledge what they said and by not putting this on the agenda, you have not given them the chance to ask questions and get real answers as to why you made this decision. You essentially told these students, through your silence, that they are not as important as other athletes at Gridley High School.” Councilmember Sanchez spoke of having played tennis during her senior year at Gridley High School. “I grew and actually I was a fairly decent tennis player. I was very disheartened to hear that the tennis team was cut without public input. I have reviewed the facility’s planning assessment from 2020 and there was no mention of tennis court improvements that were needed,” Sanchez said. Sanchez also pointed to Title IX and possible California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) regulations for maintaining a minimum number of individual sports for those unable to participate in team contact sports.

Former tennis coach, Linda McDowell, spoke with the Gridley Herald about the situation. “The courts have not been touched since (they were constructed). Their biggest complaint is it’s going to cost too much to maintain them. Of course, it’s going to cost too much. The only things that have been given into it are painting the lines on the courts, occasionally nets and a couple of cases of tennis balls each year,” McDowell said. McDowell added that she and her husband, Robert McDowell, cleaned up the courts themselves, made sure the nets were regulation height and got the team out there to help. Linda McDowell said that up to \$55,000 in grant money is available for court refurbishing from the U.S. Tennis Association. “If we need to, we can go out and ask for donations,” said McDowell. Superintendent Justin Kern and Gridley High School Principal Rikki Lee Buresch could not be reached for comment, as of press time. ★

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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, July 11: Sure Start family playtime, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

Tuesday, July 15: Creative writing group, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your imagination to life by joining us for a hands-on afternoon of LEGO fun. All are welcome to attend, and kids under 8 need to be accompanied by an adult. (B)

Wednesday, July 16: Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. Arts and crafts for adults. (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

Thursday, July 17: Pony beads, LEGOS, and clay, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Craft time together in the air-conditioned library. (B) Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (B) Family movie night, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy "Minecraft" at the library. (G)

Friday, July 18: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) Pony beads, LEGOS, and clay, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Craft time together in the air-conditioned library. (G) Ladies' night out movie, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (G)

Saturday, July 19: Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

Tuesday, July 22: LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your imagination to life by joining us for a hands-on afternoon of LEGO fun. All are welcome to attend, and kids under 8 need to be accompanied by an adult. (B)

Wednesday, July 23: Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. Arts and crafts for adults. (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

Thursday, July 24: Chill Thrills – summer reading program, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Spielberg Spectacular – a library film festival, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Join us for this summer's final 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, July 25: Sure Start family playtime, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

Now 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. July 23, we'll be making pinch pots. Have questions? Call us at 530-822-3223.

Saturday, July 12

Slice of Chico, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Downtown Chico. Enjoy complimentary ice-cold watermelon slices while shopping the diverse local retail shops and restaurants. Watermelon slicing stations will open at 10:00 a.m., with the main station hosted by the Downtown Chico Business Association on W. 3rd St. between Broadway and Main Street. More information at www.downtownchico.com

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Saturday, July 12

Street-Ready Summer Self-Defense series, noon to 2 p.m. at Cultivate Power Fighting Arts, 2360 Oro Quincy Hwy. Oroville. In this free workshop (#2 of 3), you'll learn how to protect yourself using only what you carry every day – your hands, your voice, and your awareness. This is for everyday people – no experience needed. More information and a link to register at www.cultivatepower.net

Friday, July 18

Cardboard boat races, free in Live Oak. Building begins at 5:30 p.m. and races begin at 7 p.m. For more information, see "Parks and Recreation" at www.liveoakcity.org

Saturday, July 19

9th Annual Christmas in July Butte County toy run, check in 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Sierra Steel Harley-Davidson, 1501 Mangrove Ave., Chico. All proceeds go directly to help foster youth in our community. Enjoy a nice ride around Butte County and return to the shop for free lunch. Admission and more information at www.sierrasteelhd.com

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 July 22 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

Downtown Chico holds a night market every Thursday night through September 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, July 21.

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, July 16. 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 July 16.

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. ★

California State Parks Begins Debris Cleanup at Bidwell Mansion



Shown is the Bidwell Mansion today. The beloved mansion was severely damaged in an arson fire on Dec. 11, 2024. Photo courtesy of California State Parks

California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation, News Release

CHICO, CA (MPG) - California State Parks is beginning the cleanup phase at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

Starting the week of July 7, a contractor will clear debris around the historic mansion that was severely damaged in an arson fire on Dec. 11, 2024.

Work will include removing all fire-damaged debris around the perimeter of the main historic brick structure. There will not be any demolition work on the building structure or debris cleanup inside the building.

Workers will monitor for hazardous materials and air quality, protecting what remains of the structure, originally completed in 1868. State Parks anticipates

the cleanup will take approximately three weeks.

The future for the state historic park has not been determined. However, this cleanup work will allow the structural and cultural assessments that are critical to informing the next steps for planning and recovery.

State Parks is preparing a public and stakeholder engagement process, including tribal input, that will be announced later this summer to assist in planning the state historic park's recovery. This recovery planning effort will happen concurrently with cleanup and assessment activities.

State Parks thanks the public for its continued support of this beloved Victorian home that was a symbol to the city of Chico and a point of pride for the local community. ★



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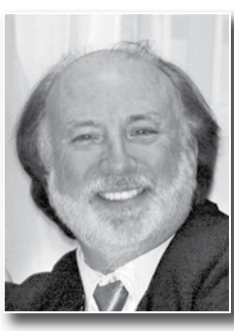
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Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Cost: Free
Location: 1566 Huntoon St., Oroville

Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Your Business Marketing (Colusa)
Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly beneficial to businesses and our communities. However, very few business owners understand how to use AI to help them in their marketing and other business strategies. We will take a deep dive into using AI to develop marketing strategies, and contents, and will take a step-by-step approach to developing an AI generated marketing strategy for your business.
Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Cost: Free
Location: 425 Webster St., Colusa

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: Wednesday, August 20, 2025
Time: 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

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

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, and grants with the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA or the California Office of the Small Business Advocate.

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, kouuwaso@butte.edu

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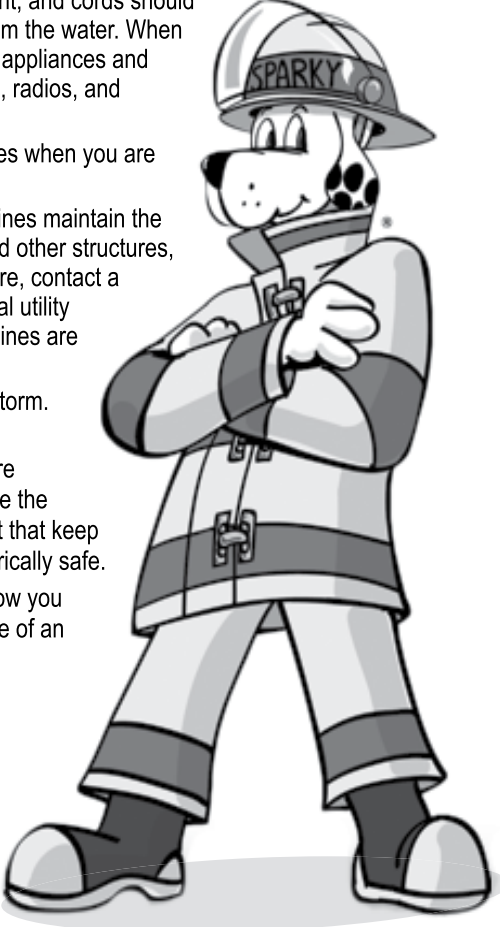


SPARKY'S
CORNER
Electrical Safety
Around Swimming Pools,
Hot Tubs, and Spas



For many of us, water activities equals’ fun. But it’s important to be aware of electrical hazards while enjoying the water. Know how to be safe around swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.

- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub, or spa be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Outdoor receptacles must have covers that keep them dry even when appliances are plugged into them.
- Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are special devices designed to protect against electric shock and electrocution. They are required for most pool, spa or hot tub equipment. They may be in the form of an outlet or a circuit breaker. Test the GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Electrical appliances, equipment, and cords should be kept at least 6 feet away from the water. When possible, use battery operated appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios, and stereos.
- Avoid handling electrical devices when you are wet.
- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If unsure, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.
- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and – where necessary – replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa, or hot tub electrically safe.
- Have a qualified electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency



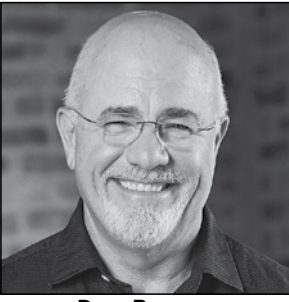
Thank You, and Be Safe!!
Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74

Ask
DR. UNIVERSE

What’s the reason people are grumpy?
– Braelyn, 13, Oklahoma

Dear Braelyn,
Everyone feels grumpy sometimes—even a cheerful cat like me.
Sometimes exhaustion makes us crabby. When we really need sleep, our brains struggle to do their jobs—like managing our emotions. Sometimes hunger makes us cranky. Our brains need a steady supply of sugar energy. When the available sugar drops too low, we feel terrible—or even hangry. Sometimes stress or problems like anxiety and depression make us grumpy.
In all those scenarios, anger lets us know we need to change something. We need to sleep, eat or get some help with our problems.
I asked my friend Anthony Lopez why we feel anger in the first place. He’s a political scientist at Washington State University. He studies how anger evolved and how that helps us understand things like war.
He told me that humans (and human-like cats) are social animals. When we live and work together, conflicts happen.
“Anger evolved to help you resolve conflicts in your favor, especially when you perceive that you’re being valued less than you ought to be,” Lopez said. “If you feel undervalued or taken advantage of, then the anger system helps motivate you to advocate for yourself and for a better outcome.”
That means anger helps us solve disagreements. It helps us identify that we feel wronged and motivates us to talk about it.
Let’s say you and I sit down to eat some delicious cheese. We pop open the can. I carve out a tiny chunk for you. I plop a ginormous wedge on my plate. You might feel a rush of anger.
That anger isn’t just an emotional reaction to unfairness. It’s also a tool that helps us fix the problem and stay friends.
“Part of the purpose of anger is to repair relationships,” Lopez said. “So, you can reach into the mind of the other person

and say, ‘This isn’t right. We’re friends, and you shouldn’t have done this.’ Anger is meant to try to reconcile that, so we have the same understanding of your value and my value and our friendship.”
When you point out I’ve unfairly split the cheese, I’ll probably hear your anger and realize I messed up. Maybe I’ll hand you half my cheese and say I’m sorry.
But what if I don’t? What if I did it on purpose and won’t back down?
Lopez said we have two options in a scenario like this: withdrawal or punishment.
You could decide that you don’t want to finish our snack together—or maybe you don’t want to be friends with me anymore. That’s withdrawal.
You could decide to grab my cheese and eat it. Or punch me in the nose. That’s punishment.
Anger helps you recognize there’s a problem, negotiate to fix it, and take action if the negotiation doesn’t work.
Two vampire bats hang upside down. One spits blood into the other’s mouth. The image is a black and white still from a video.
These are white-winged vampire bats. The male is feeding blood to the female. Image: ©Gerald Carter
It turns out this isn’t just a human thing. All animals respond to threats to themselves or their resources—even if they can’t use anger to verbally work out a solution.
Lopez told me that vampire bats share food. They slurp up animal blood then fly home and barf some up into their friends’ mouths. If one bat doesn’t share, the other bats will withdraw. They won’t share with that bat in the future—even if it’s super hungry.
I guess you could say that, like us, bats evolved to be mad good at managing conflicts.
Sincerely,
Dr. Universe



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I have a cleaning and restoration business with 30 employees. Last year, we brought in \$3 million. Things are going very well overall, but considering what we do, I can get calls around the clock, seven days a week. I want to be there for my team as much as possible, but I'm also trying to get them to take on more responsibility and ownership when they're on job sites. Do you have any suggestions?

— Joe

Dear Joe,

When someone brings me a problem, and drops it on my desk, I tell them to pick it back up. In other words, I want them to look at the problem as theirs—not mine. Then, I ask one question: Based on what you know about our company, what do you think we would do to fix this? Sometimes they'll be right, and sometimes they'll be wrong. If they're

Dave Ramsey Says *They Expect Me to Solve Every Problem*

wrong, I'll tell them to go back to their desk, and just quietly think for a few minutes. After, I want them to call me back with three possible solutions to the problem. I'll explain which solution is the right one, and why. I'll also explain why the other two weren't the best ways to handle things.

Do you see what I'm getting at? They're not going to grow if you solve every problem for them. Make them think it through. Because by doing this, you're training them to make decisions. Do you know what else this does? It will eventually relieve you of being jarred awake in the middle of the night by a ringing phone. Joe, you've built a \$3 million company. You've got a big team working with you and making big things happen. You shouldn't have to answer phone calls around the clock.

Transferring the fire in your heart, and the knowledge in your head, to your team members sets everyone up to burn brighter and be more knowledge-

able and self-assured. But you'll need to intentionally shift your mindset from stepping in and doing the work to leading it. Start seeing yourself more as a catalyst, a coach and a consultant, rather than the muscle for all the heavy lifting.

If this sounds hard, it's because it is. Delegating, at first, is one of the hardest things you'll ever do in your business. But if you slow down a little to put the best delegation and problem solving processes in place now, you'll be able to move—and grow—even faster later.

Great question, Joe
— Dave

Dave Ramsey is a nine-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

I appreciate summer cool downs. I've become very whiny about hot days. The minus to hot days is that I can no longer work out in the sun and heat, so gardening is restricted to early morning and late evenings (which includes mosquito wars). It is not as awful now that I do pottery for a hobby. Some of the pieces are planters but

many are flights of fancy from seeing ideas for great dishes. But even muddy hands from pottery doesn't totally make up for dirty hands from the garden.

My red flame grapes have ripened early this year and have been wonderful. My husband for whom I planted that grape hardly ate them last year. I asked him why and he replied they are too small. Needless to say, I was irritated by that answer. Off I went to research how to make grapes grow bigger. A suggestion was to prune the end of each cluster of grapes so there are fewer grapes and therefore the remaining grapes get bigger. I decided to try this because it was a

simple and elegant solution. I grow my grape in an upright column manner. I prune the runners off of the first two and a half feet of the main vine. Then I prune all the other vines back so they are about 2-3 feet long. The plant takes up about 3-4 feet this way. This year I pinched off about two to three inches from the tip of each grape cluster when they were small. Sure enough, the grapes are bigger.

I prune all the vines off of the main column in the winter and I feed it fruiting food. It has a great abundance of grapes and doesn't take up hardly any room. Plenty to table grapes to eat and to share. ★



California's July 4 Cookout Costs Higher than National Average

Californians stocking up on groceries for Fourth of July holiday celebrations this week will pay comparatively steeper prices, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual marketbasket survey, which analyzed the cost of cookout staples such as ground beef, pork chops, hamburger buns and lemonade. The average Independence Day cookout for 10 guests in California will cost \$90.06, nearly 27% higher than the national average of \$70.92, the survey found. "Inflation and lower availability of some food items continue to keep prices stubbornly high," AFBF Associate Economist Samantha Ayoub said. She noted that "high prices don't mean more money for farmers," who take home an average of just 15% of food retail revenue. Nationwide, the cost of a Fourth of July cookout remained almost unchanged from last year, with the average grocery bill for a party of 10 falling by 30 cents.

Dairy Farms Make Strides in Capturing Biogas and Reducing Emissions

During the past five years, U.S. dairy farmers more than doubled the amount of methane they capture from manure and convert into biogas using anaerobic digesters, according to data released this week by the American Biogas Council. Overall biogas capture on dairies

increased by 130%, generating enough renewable energy to power 615,000 homes per year, the council reported. "The great progress by our dairy farmers in trapping a waste gas and putting it to beneficial use is something all Americans can celebrate," ABC Executive Director Patrick Serfass said. "Biogas systems help improve our food system by providing nutrient-rich, odor-free fertilizers, increasing farm sustainability, and helping to keep air and water clean in rural communities."

California Farmers Partner with State to Protect Groundwater Supplies

A pilot program launched in 2022 by the California Department of Water Resources to help farmers conserve groundwater supplies has succeeded in saving more than 100,000 acre-feet of groundwater and protecting more than 16,000 domestic wells, according to a report published last week by DWR. By providing \$23 million in grants, the LandFlex program has enabled 52 farms to implement water conservation practices and develop infrastructure such as basins to recharge overdrafted aquifers. "The future of California is one where communities that are dependent on groundwater wells have reliable and safe drinking water, farms can stay in production with sustainable practices, and critical water infrastructure is protected from subsidence," DWR Director Karla Nemeth said. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The Milwaukee Bucks won their first NBA title in 1971, and it took 50 years for the Bucks to win a title again. A fellow by the name of Giannis Antetokounmpo helped them accomplish this task, but players of his caliber are in short supply.

The Sacramento Kings have been in Sacramento for 40 years without reaching the finals or winning a championship. But make no mistake, fans in Kingstown still believe an NBA title will eventually come to Sacramento.

Sadly, during the offseason, fans are hearing far too much about mid-level exceptions, aprons first and second, collective bargaining and salary caps. Frankly, the NBA has one of the most complicated systems regarding player compensation, and it takes someone with an advanced degree in economics to comprehend it.

What we know, is that in the aftermath of seeing mega popular DeAaron Fox trot his talents to the San Antonio Spurs midway through the 2025/2026 season, the Kings have navigated the point guard position much like a rudderless ship.

Freshman GM Scott Perry, tasked with replacing De'Aaron Fox, last week signed journeyman Dennis Schröder, a former #1 draft choice by the Atlanta Hawks in 2013. Schroder was chosen #17 overall and for the past 12 seasons has seen playing time with Oklahoma City Thunder, Los Angeles Lakers, Boston Celtics, Houston Rockets, Toronto Raptors, Brookly Nets, Golden State Warriors and finally the Detroit Pistons.

Originally from Germany, where he played professionally and for the German national team in the Olympics, one could say Schroder has seen America from coast to coast.

Dennis Schroder's career stats are not gaudy, but 13.9 points per game being as traveled as he's been, shows he can contribute when needed. Five assists per game and 3 rebounds aren't eye popping, but it's important to remember why the Kings went out to get him.

Sacramento has a plethora of scoring power in the starting lineup and coming off the bench. What has been lacking since the departure of Fox, is a capable distributor of the basketball.

At 2.2 turnovers per game Schroder has a better control average than DeAaron Fox, so at least in one regard the Kings have made

an upgrade.

Not many players would clammer to be the replacement for a point guard as popular as Fox, but Sacramento fans are a generous crowd, and I expect to see fans give Dennis Schroder an ample opportunity to display his talents.

Do I think Schroder can be a capable replacement? Absolutely! He won't score 24 points per game or go coast to coast with the type of speed that DeAaron does, but neither does anyone else.

Scott Perry was given a thankless job, and if Schroder can come in and give the Kings 14 points per game, and take care of the basketball, there's a good chance that the playoffs of two seasons ago won't be the exception to the rule.

Coming off the bench is last year's first round draft choice Devin Carter, and Sacramento has a rookie guard in Nique Clifford that is going to need playing time, so don't expect to see Schroder get much more than 20-25 minutes per game.

Perry is likely to have more moves coming, so keep your eyes on summer league Kings fans, and don't forget that Sacramento also drafted a 7-footer in Maxime Raynaud. It will be interesting to see how coach Christie uses his new big man.

Sadly, popular Jonas Valanciunas won't be suiting up for the Kings this season, as he was traded last week to the Denver Nuggets for Dario Saric. Saric will be a role player, and spell Sabonis off the bench. At 6' 10" and 225 lbs. this 31-year-old will undoubtedly see playing time.

Players like Isaac Jones and Devin Carter are still trying to open eyes, so this year's summer league will be an opportunity to showcase their talents and allow Doug Christie to see their growth over the season.

NBA pundits have praised the Kings' draft this year, and I concur with their accolades. There's real optimism as this team is deep in talent. It remains to be seen how that talent will come together, and whether the Kings can take the young talent they have to the next level.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because this roster isn't cast in stone just yet!

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vghar-riskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

California Lawmakers Finally Achieve 'Holy Grail' Reform



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Jerry Brown once described reform of the California Environmental Quality Act as "the lord's work" but he, like other recent governors, was not willing to invest enough political capital to change it.

Simply put, significantly altering CEQA, which then-Gov. Ronald Reagan signed more than a half-century ago, would require confronting two powerful interest groups: environmental organizations and labor unions, which have weaponized the law to achieve their goals.

Brown made one stab at compelling the Legislature to alter CEQA in 2016, but otherwise left it to his successor, Gavin Newsom.

For six years, Newsom echoed the attitudes of his predecessors, critical of CEQA's misuse to block housing and other much-needed projects, or compel developers to hire unionized labor or jump through other hoops, but unwilling to confront it head-on.

Instead, he and the Legislature nibbled at the edges of the law and gave specific projects, such as sports arenas, exemptions.

Finally, however, the social and economic costs of leaving CEQA intact became too high. The state's critical shortage of housing continued despite innumerable policy

declarations aimed at spurring investment. It became downright embarrassing that a politically dominant Democratic Party pledged to socioeconomic equity was unable to deliver on promises to make housing more abundant and affordable.

California starred in a New York Times video that chastised blue states for failing to live up to their stated principles and in a recent book, "Abundance," about the nation's chronic inability to deliver much-needed projects due to regulatory overkill, such as CEQA.

This year, with Newsom nearing the end of his governorship and appearing to cast his eyes toward a presidential campaign, the governor decided to confront the CEQA issue squarely. He endorsed two bills that would impose limits on the law's reach and, in the end, threatening to block the entire state budget if they weren't placed on his desk.

On Monday (June 30), the last day of the fiscal year, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 130 and Senate Bill 131 with last-minute changes to dampen opposition from construction unions. Newsom quickly signed them.

"We needed to go bold and big on this holy grail reform," Newsom said at a hastily staged signing ceremony.

Essentially, the legislation exempts virtually all infill housing projects from CEQA's provisions, making it more difficult for opponents of high-density housing projects, known as NIMBYs, to block approval.

Such projects, particularly those aimed at low- and moderate-income families, have been the most difficult to gain approval, due largely to opposition in upscale communities

dominated by single-family homeowners.

"When you are building housing in an existing community, that is environmentally beneficial, it is climate friendly, that is not something that should be subjected to potentially endless CEQA challenges and lawsuits," Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat who authored SB 131, told senators before they passed the measure.

Wiener and Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, an Oakland Democrat who carried AB 130, have been the Capitol's two most aggressive advocates of pro-housing legislation.

The remaining question, of course, is whether the two new laws, which go into effect immediately, will have a discernible impact on the state's housing shortage. CEQA is just one factor of many determining whether proposed projects proceed or die. Those who oppose high-density housing in their neighborhoods will not just roll over.

Ironically, as the Legislature was passing the two new laws on Monday, The Atlantic was publishing a lengthy article entitled "The Whole Country Is Starting to Look Like California," that describes how red tape and local opposition are adversely affecting housing development in red states such as Texas and Florida, which had been viewed as developer paradises.

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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The following person(s) are doing
business as: A10CO Studios, 3262
Kettle Creek, Chico, CA 95973
Jasmine Atencio, 3262 Kettle
Creek, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: March
5, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: May 5, 2025
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
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Business and Professions Code.
Publish: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025
A10CO 7-11-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000436
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Can I Get A
Ride, 2 East Gridley Road, Suite
B 310, Gridley, CA 95948
Katrina M Shampeau, 2 East
Gridley Road, Suite B 310,
Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: June
9, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
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titious business name in violation
of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law
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Business and Professions Code.
Publish: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025
CAN 7-11-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000438
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Supreme Clean,
3089 Tenth Street, Biggs, CA
95917
Silas Z McFall, P.O. Box 1128,
Biggs, CA 95917
Date filed in Butte County: June
9, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: June 2, 2025
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
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(see Section 14400, ET SEQ.,
Business and Professions Code.
Publish: June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2025
SUPREME 7-18-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000461
The following person(s) are
doing business as: Parallel
Property, 66 Marybill Ranch
Road, Chico, CA 95928
George R Nicolaus, 66 Marybill
Ranch Road, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: June
18, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: January 1, 2011
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
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of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law
(see Section 14400, ET SEQ.,
Business and Professions Code.
Publish: June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2025
PARALLEL 7-18-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000371
The following person(s) are
doing business as: Raliberto's
Taco Shop, 116 Table Mountain
Boulevard, Oroville, CA 95965
FRG Fernandes Taco Shop
LLC, 2031 Forest Avenue, Suite
108, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: May
12, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: May 5, 2025
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
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fictitious business name in viola-
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Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
RALIBERTO'S 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000394
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Eight Six O, 860
Hazel Street, Gridley, CA 95948
Natalie J Ratliff and Sarah M
Kelly, 860 Hazel Street, Gridley,
CA 95948 Date filed in Butte
County: May 21, 2025. The
Registrant commenced to trans-
act business under the above
business name on: May 21, 2025
This Business is conducted by:
A General Partnership. NOTICE:
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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
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Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
RATLIFF 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000462
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Calafia Auto
Sales, 1746 Park Avenue, Chico,
CA 95928
Calafia Enterprises, 1746 Park
Avenue, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: June
18, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
A Corporation. NOTICE: This fic-
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Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
CALAFIA 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000464
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: E3 Business
Services, 928 Neal Dow Avenue,
Chico, CA 95926
Marcos Gonzalez, 928 Neal Dow
Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
Date filed in Butte County: June
20, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
GONZALEZ 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000451
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: The Pilates
Room, 885 Hazel Street, Gridley,
CA 95948
Eliza Sannar and Shelly Davis,
1945 Vermont Street, Gridley,
CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: June
16, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
A General Partnership. 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 viola-
tion of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law
(see Section 14400, ET SEQ.,
Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
PILATES 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000442
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Bidwell Notary
& Services, 3051 Eaton Road,
Chico, CA 95973
Cristina Borja Cordova, 3051
Eaton Road, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: June
10, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
BIDWELL 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000449
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Impact CDL
Training/Impact CDL, 2009
Challenger Avenue, Oroville, CA
95965
Idaho CDL Training LLC, 1111 S
Orchard Street, Unit 239, Boise,
ID 83705
Date filed in Butte County: June
13, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced 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 viola-
tion of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law
(see Section 14400, ET SEQ.,
Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
IMPACT 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000481
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Biggs Baptist
Church, 2395 6th Street, Biggs,
CA 95917
Biggs Ministry Center, 2935 6th
Street, Biggs, CA 95917
Date filed in Butte County: June
24, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
A Corporation. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
PARIENTES 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2025-0000475
The following person(s) are
doing business as: Case &
Coldwell, #1047, 2019 Forest
Avenue, Suite 160, Chico, CA
95928
Marion J Townsend, #1047,
2019 Forest Avenue, Suite 160,
Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: June
23, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious business name in viola-
tion of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law
(see Section 14400, ET SEQ.,
Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
COLDWELL 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000455
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Threshold, 4134
Stone Valley Court, Chico, CA
95973
Ardonlake, LLC, 4134 Stone
Valley Court, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: June
17, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced 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 viola-

tion of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law
(see Section 14400, ET SEQ.,
Business and Professions Code.
Publish: July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025
THRESHOLD 7-25-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2025-0000490
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Sage and Spirit,
1838 Locust Street, Chico, CA
95928
Jihan Gray, P.O. Box 5664,
Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: June
25, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
SAGE 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2025-0000491
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: VAPESVISTA,
236 W 9th Street, Chico, CA
95928
Feriz Trading Inc, 236 W 9th
Street, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: June
25, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
A Corporation. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
VAPESVISTA 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2025-0000493
The following person(s) are do-
ing business as: Los Parientes,
484 CA 99, Gridley, CA 95948
Ignacio Hernandez Chavez,
2676 Orange Street, Live Oak,
CA 95953
Date filed in Butte County: June
26, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: June 26, 2025
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
PARIENTES 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2025-0000475
The following person(s) are
doing business as: Case &
Coldwell, #1047, 2019 Forest
Avenue, Suite 160, Chico, CA
95928
Marion J Townsend, #1047,
2019 Forest Avenue, Suite 160,
Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: June
23, 2025. The Registrant com-
menced to transact business
under the above business name
on: N/A
This Business is conducted by:
An Individual. NOTICE: This fic-
titious 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 state-
ment does not of itself authorize
the use in this state of a fic-
titious 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
COLDWELL 8-1-25

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE
OF NAME
CASE #25CV02289
Petitioner Taylor Nicole
Goodwin filed a petition with
this court for a decree changing
names as follows: Taylor Nicole
Smith to Taylor Nicole Goodwin.
THE COURT ORDERS that all per-
sons interested in this matter shall
appear before this court at the hearing
indicated below to show cause, if any,
why the petition for change of name
should not be granted. Any person ob-
jecting to the name changes described
above must file written objection that
includes the reasons for the objection at
least two court days before the matter is
scheduled to be heard and must appear
at the hearing August 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Department TBD, Room TBD, Superior
Court of California, County of Butte,
North County Courthouse 1775 Concord
Avenue Chico, CA 95928
Filed on June 25, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: July 4, 7, 11, 18
TAYLOR 7-25-25

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
JO ANNE M. YORK
CASE NO. 25PR00242
To all heirs, beneficiaries, credi-
tors, and contingent creditors of
and persons who may be other-
wise interested in the will or es-
tate of Jo Anne M. York.
A Petition for Probate has
been filed by Diadra Cain, in
the Superior Court of California,
County of Butte, requesting
Diadra Cain be appointed as per-
sonal representative(s) to admin-
ister the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority
to administer the estate under
the Independent Administration
of Estates Act. (This authority will
allow the executor to take many
actions without obtaining court
approval. Before taking certain
very important actions, howev-
er, the executor will be required
to give notice to interested per-
sons unless they have waived
notice or have consented to the
proposed action.) The independ-
ent 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 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept
1. Superior Court of California,
County of Butte, 1775 Concord
Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-
ing of the petition, you should
appear at the hearing and state
your objections or file written ob-
jections 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 de-
ceased, 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 rep-
resentative, as defined in section
58(b) of the California Probate
Code, or (2) 60 days from the
date of mailing or personal de-
livery 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 in-
terested in the estate, you may
file with the court a Request for
Special Notice (form DE-154) of
the filing of an inventory and ap-
praisal 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 tele-
phone number of the Attorney for
Petitioner is: Debby M. Ehrlich,
4305 Third Avenue, suite 3405,
San Diego, CA 92103; (805)
312-8059
Publish: June 27, July 4, 11, 2025
YORK 7-11-25



COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Amber Waves

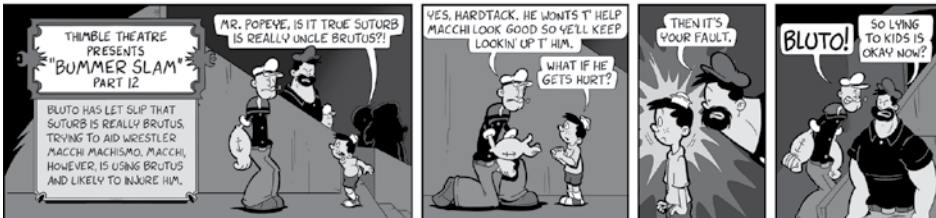


by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb



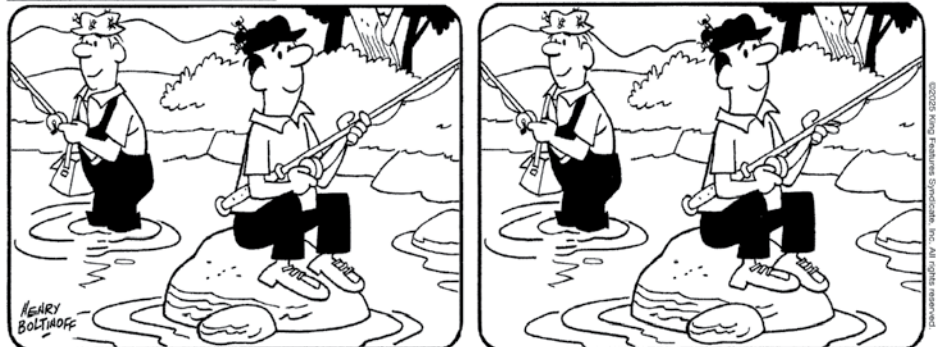
by Garv Kopervas



HOCUS - FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

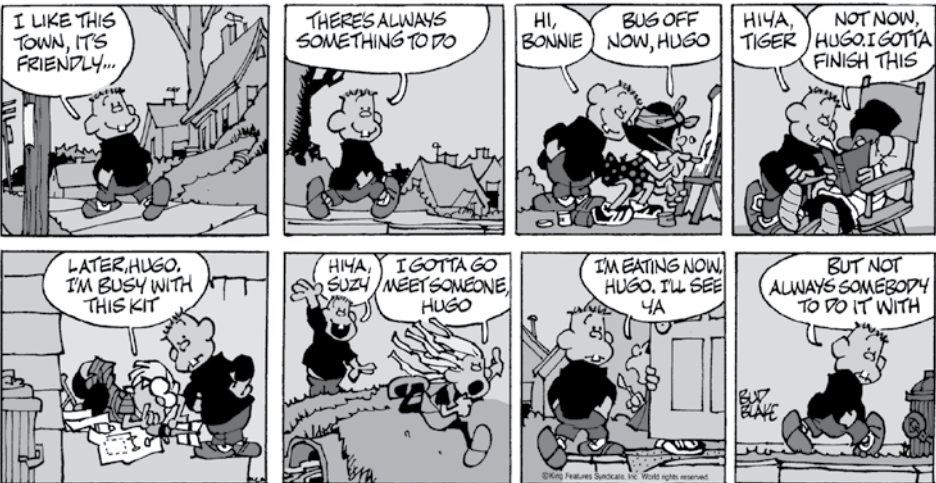
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Rock is moved. 4. Mountain is different. 5. Ear is larger. 6. Fingers are



TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



A	F	A	R			N	B	A				H	A	T	
U	L	N	A		W	O	R	N		A	L	I	B	I	
G	O	N	G		O	R	E	O		M	A	L	L	S	
	C	A	T	W	O	M	A	N		I	S	L	E		
			A	H	E	A	D		A	N	A				
T	I	G	G	E	R			A	P	O	G	E	E	S	
O	N	E		T	S	H	I	R	T		N	E	X	T	
P	A	L	M	S		A	L	E		M	A	R	I	E	
A	N	T	I		S	I	L	A	G	E		I	S	M	
Z	E	S	T	I	E	R			O	N	S	E	T	S	
			T	N	T		W	H	O	S	E				
	A	G	E	S			C	H	E	S	H	I	R	E	
C	L	O	N	E			A	O	N	E		Z	A	N	Y
H	U	R	S	T			T	O	N	Y		E	R	I	E
A	M	Y					S	P	A			R	E	D	S

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • FICTIONAL FELINES

CLUES

- ACROSS
1. A long way off
5. Basketball org.
8. *Dr. Seuss' cat headgear
11. Elbow-wrist connection
12. Showing signs of use
13. Legal excuse
15. "The _____ Show" (1976-1980)
16. Black and white cookie
17. Pall _____ and _____ of America
18. *Halle Berry's 2004 role
20. Small island
21. In advance
22. Santa _____ winds
23. *Bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy one
26. Orbital extremes
30. Half and half
31. Casual talk
34. Clerk's call
35. Fortuneteller's props
37. Pub offering
38. *Berlioz, Toulouse and _____ of "Aristocats"
39. _____ perspirant
40. Silo contents
42. Philosophical system
43. More zestful
45. Army's offensives
47. Blast maker, acr.
48. "_____ Line Is It Anyway?"
50. Long, long time
52. *Lewis Carroll's smiley _____ Cat
55. Star Wars attacker
56. First rate (2 words)
57. Foolish
59. Jaws of Life manufacturer
60. *Cereal-praising tiger
61. Lake north of Cleveland
62. Comedian Schumer
63. Health resort
64. Communists, slangily

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	
11					12					13	14			
15					16					17				
	18				19					20				
			21					22						
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30				31		32	33				34			
35			36			37				38				
39					40				41			42		
43				44					45		46			
			47				48	49						
	50	51				52						53	54	
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			



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8	5	4	9	7	6	2	3	1
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9	6	7	1	8	4	3	5	2
3	2	5	7	6	9	1	4	8
2	8	6	4	3	5	7	1	9
5	4	1	6	9	7	8	2	3
7	9	3	8	2	1	5	6	4

match
41. "_____ Goosey Gander"
44. Magazine's special
feature
46. Kidnapper
48. What pertussis patients
do
49. Temporary tattoo ink
50. Class reunion attendee
51. With bloodshed
52. *A. L. Webber musical
53. One in a million
54. Children's author Blyton
55. Repeated Cuban dance
step
58. An affirmative

- DOWN
1. Summer mo.
2. Flocculant, for short
3. Actress Kendrick
4. Riffraff
5. _____ Jean Baker
6. Certain pudding ingredient
7. Happening soon, old fashioned
8. Ant construction
9. Competent
10. _____ the season!
12. Suits
13. Type of acid
14. "Garfield's favorite food"
19. Sharps
22. Bldg unit
23. November birthstone
24. Lacking sense
25. Hanukkah coins
26. Atlas stat
27. Chilling
28. Be
29. Champagne flute part, pl.
32. Whisker
33. Not well
36. "What three little kittens lost
38. Decent person, in Yiddish
40. Between game and



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



Knights Landing: Incident & Recovery

Compiled from Sutter County Sheriff's Office News Releases

SUTTER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On July 1, at approximately 6:57 p.m., two adult males jumped from the Knights Landing Bridge near Locust and Front streets. One of the individuals did not resurface. Bridge jumping was not uncommon behavior for these men.

Sutter County Sheriff's Dive Team, with support from an external agency, responded immediately and conducted search and recovery operations.

On July 2, Sutter County Sheriff Boat Patrol and Dive Team attempted to locate the missing male in the Sacramento River, in the area beneath the Knights Landing Bridge. Assistance was from the Butte County Sheriff's Office and Yuba County Sheriff's Office.

On July 3, the Sutter County Sheriff's Office was granted assistance from Law Enforcement Mutual Aide (LEMA) to further the scope in locating the male. Assistance



was granted from Butte County Sheriff's Office, Yuba County Sheriff's Office, Colusa County Sheriff's Office, Nevada County Sheriff's Office and Placer County Sheriff's Office.

Around 6 p.m. July 3, after extensive search and recovery efforts from multiple agencies and highly-trained dive teams, 25-year-old Cameron Birdsong of Live Oak was recovered in the Sacramento River.

The Sutter County Sheriff's Office stated, "We would like to extend

our utmost appreciation to the following agencies for assisting us in locating Cameron: Yuba County Sheriff's Office, Placer County Sheriff's Office, Butte County Sheriff's Office, Colusa County Sheriff's Office, Nevada County Sheriff's Office and the Sutter County Office of Emergency Management. We would also like to thank the Yuba-Sutter Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) for providing a safe space for Cameron's family and loved ones during this time. ★

Seven Workers Die in Esparto Fireworks Explosion

By Shamaya Sutton

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - An explosion at a fireworks facility in Esparto on July 1 destroyed a major stockpile of pyrotechnics and left seven people missing, prompting widespread cancellations and changes to Fourth of July celebrations across Northern California.

Among the events affected was the Yuba-Sutter Fireworks Show, a regional tradition that draws thousands to

Beckwourth Riverfront Park in Marysville.

Originally scheduled for July 4, the show was postponed to Saturday, July 5, allowing organizers time to pivot to a new fireworks provider.

"We have a connection to that and that connection is the seven people that are missing. Many of those are actually the men that put on our fireworks display for the last several years since we brought it back," said Yuba City Mayor Dave Shaw during a public address at the annual Yuba City Bike Parade.

Shaw led a moment of silence and prayer for the victims before continuing with the local festivities on the morning of July 4.

The July 1 explosion occurred at a facility in Esparto used by Devastating Pyrotechnics, a company contracted to handle multiple fireworks shows across the state.

The Yolo County Sheriff's Office confirmed on July 5 that the remains of all seven individuals had been located within the debris.

Among the reported victims were three brothers, 18-year-old Jesus Maneces Ramos, 22-year-old Johnny Ramos, and 28-year-old Joel "Junior" Melendez, who were working together at the facility when the blast occurred.

Their deaths, confirmed by family members and reported by the San Francisco Chronicle and KCRA, have

drawn widespread sympathy and support from the community.

Other victims identified included Carlos Javier Rodriguez, 41, and Angel Voller. Neil Lee, reported to be the general manager of Devastating Pyrotechnics, was also among those killed, according to KCRA.

As of July 6, authorities confirmed that the remains of all seven missing individuals had been recovered, although two victims have yet to be publicly identified pending official DNA confirmation.

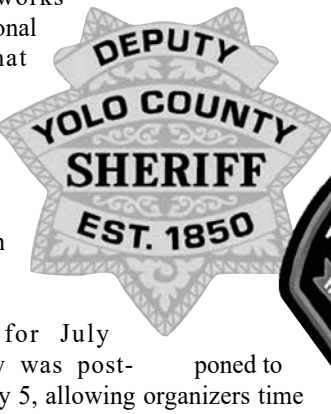
The facility, located at 27020 County Road 19A in rural Yolo County, has since come under scrutiny for lacking proper operating permits. According to a report by the San

Francisco Chronicle published July 3, officials with the California State Fire Marshal's Office confirmed that no valid permits had been issued for the site.

According to Yolo County officials, the five-acre parcel is privately owned by Sam Machado, a lieutenant with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office.

The land is zoned Agricultural Intensive (A-N) and had only been authorized for agricultural storage. Despite this, two pyrotechnics companies—Devastating Pyrotechnics and BlackStar Fireworks—were operating at the site without a required conditional use permit.

Among the personnel tied to these companies was Craig Cutright, the owner of BlackStar Fireworks and an employee of Devastating Pyrotechnics. Additionally, Cutright served as a volunteer firefighter for the Esparto Fire Protection District but he has since been let go following the explosion. This involvement has prompted further questions on regulatory oversight and potential conflicts of interest. The cause of the explosion remains under investigation. ★



Loaded Firearm Discovered During Traffic Stop

Suspect Arrested on Multiple Charges



Butte County
KORY L. HONEA, SHERIFF-CORONER

Butte County Sheriff's Office Media Release

MAGALIA, CA (MPG) - A Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) deputy, assigned to patrol the Magalia area, assisted a California Highway Patrol (CHP) unit with a traffic stop near 14419 Skyway on June 28 at approximately 9:01 p.m.

The driver, identified

as Arthur Ascheman, 51 of Magalia, was found to have a suspended license and was under Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) terms, according to law enforcement.

A search of the vehicle, conducted under Post-Release Community Supervision search conditions, led to the discovery of a loaded shotgun in the

trunk, law enforcement said.

Ascheman was arrested on multiple charges, including being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm, being a prohibited person in possession of ammunition, and Post-Release Community Supervision violations. He was booked into the Butte County Jail. ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

When the world is hot and my skin is fried, scratching from the constant dry, let the clouds boil up, boil up high. And then shade the earth with the darkening sky and bring the secrets and the smell of rain. The coolness and the blessed rain, again.

Our land is brown but blessed, stressed in the heat, the shiny heat of day. The slender green of rivers slide along, striving to continue, to feed its own along the banks, the banks where the dust rises. Rises, powdery clomp

Always Looking for More

by clomp as we walk, walk the shady way.

And though the heat, the dryness of heat, pushes down our weary feet, we plod along. Ours is the blessing of challenge, to live, to thrive in the heat. To toil and sweat, to make the cold drink at day's end that much sweeter. Sweeter as it goes down, cooler as it falls, dropping the coolness inside us and forcing us to smile. That summer smile.

When the heat falls hard, on many days, unquenched by the dark of night, we ask, in quiet times, we ask. Bring us the clouds, the black-bellied clouds, the clouds that softly hold the heads of gods in their moistening grasp. The clouds, those big-bellied busters that hold the violence, the wind, the flashes, the noise.

The clouds we wait for and pray for and look for on the western ridge. Let them come, with their silver tops and their bellies black as night and cool as forgiveness. The summer clouds, the clouds that define our culture, our art, our summer, our hot, heavy summer.

A rain, a storm, a suddenness of life and blast and sweet charity designed to keep us living here, here in the rain, here in the sun, and keep us praying, here in the rain, and looking toward the west for more, always to the west, always looking for more.

Brought to you by the national humor broadcast, Home Country with Slim Randles. Now on more than 40 classic country stations and threatening to swallow the world. ★

PG&E Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Utility scams have continued at an alarming rate this year, with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers reporting more than \$190,000 in losses to scammers. PG&E is helping customers recognize the signs of a scam and avoid falling victim.

A typical sign of a scam targeting a utility customer includes a caller claiming to be from PG&E and threatening disconnection if immediate payment is not made via a pre-paid debit card, digital payment mobile application or other methods of money transfer.

As a reminder, PG&E will never send a single notification to a customer within one hour of a service interruption and will never ask customers to make payments with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, any form of cryptocurrency or instant mobile payment applications, such as Zelle® or Venmo.

"Scammers seek to create a sense of panic, threatening disconnection of utility services if immediate payment is not made. If a phone call, visit to your home or email doesn't feel right, don't fall for it. Hang up, shut the door and do not respond to the email," said PG&E Cybersecurity Risk Manager Amy Lucido. "Remember, PG&E will never ask for your financial information over the phone or via email, nor will we request payment via pre-paid debit cards or other methods of money transfer, including mobile applications."

So far this year, PG&E has received more than 10,000 reports of scams targeting residential and business customers with customers reporting losses of more than \$190,000. The average scam victim lost more than \$900 and more than 200 customers have reported falling victim. This number is likely just the tip of the iceberg however, as many scams go unreported.

Scams reported to PG&E by county so far this year: Butte 62; El Dorado eight; Glenn three; Nevada 18; Placer 75; Sacramento 270; San Joaquin 130; Shasta 32; Sutter 40; Tehama six; and Yuba 43.

Business customers are also not immune from scam attempts. In fact, PG&E has received 250 reports of scams targeting small and medium-sized businesses this year and these attempts frequently occur during busy business hours when scammers hope to catch unsuspecting victims while they are distracted or stressed.

Scammers can be convincing and often target those who are most vulnerable, including senior citizens and low-income communities. They also aim their scams at small business owners during busy customer service hours. However, with the right information, customers can learn to detect and report these predatory scams by visiting www.pge.com/scams or by calling 1-833-500-SCAM.

Scammers are able to create authentic-looking 800 numbers which appear on your phone display. The numbers don't lead back to PG&E if called back, however, so if you have doubts, hang up and either log into your account at pge.com to confirm your bill details or call PG&E at 1-833-500-SCAM. If customers feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 911.

Signing up for an online account at pge.com is another safeguard. Not only can customers log in to check their balance and payment history, they can sign up for recurring payments, paperless billing and helpful alerts. Customers can also call PG&E Customer Service at 800-743-5000 to confirm their bill details and current amount due.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud or who feel threatened during contact with these scammers should contact local law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission's website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information. For more information about scams, visit pge.com/scams and/or <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16-million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news. ★

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Senate Bill 54 the So Called Values Act



By John McGinness

Much attention has been directed at immigration enforcement in California this year. Donald Trump made several campaign promises in his 2024 presidential campaign. Chief among those were commitments to improve the economy (reduce inflation) and enforce the existing immigration laws. He even went so far as to suggest the possibility of mass deportations. The result of his clearly expressed promises was a decisive win on November 5, 2024. In fact, to the surprise of many, Donald Trump not only prevailed in the electoral college, he won the popular vote and became the forty-seventh president of the United States. Among the first actions of the new president was the appointment of a no-nonsense border czar, Tom Homan who has been unequivocal in his commitment to relentlessly enforce immigration laws in this country. The United States of America is often referred to as a democracy, when in fact, it is a constitutional republic. However, the method through which we elect candidates for office is through a democratic process. In the case of President Donald Trump, the

voters spoke clearly through the democratic process and chose the candidate who committed to strict immigration enforcement. That development put the state of California, and other blue states at odds with the new administration and the will of most Americans, as evidenced by the 2024 election outcome. To develop a better understanding of how California got where it is today, we revisit history. In 2017 the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 54, the so-called Values Act which prohibited the practice of state and local law enforcement officers from interacting with personnel from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This action by the legislature was taken without voter approval and against vocal opposition from law enforcement executives and rank and file law enforcement practitioners. It was signed into law by Governor Edmond G Brown, Jr and became law on January 1, 2018. Prior to that time, ICE personnel regularly visited, and in many cases were stationed in, major jails throughout the state of California for the purpose of monitoring the immigration status of criminal suspects booked into the facilities. That practice allowed for the peaceful transfer of jurisdiction from California peace officers - to immigration enforcement personnel. Additionally, when ICE had identified a person that was wanted and subject to arrest under their jurisdiction, they would routinely contact local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of ensuring local police were aware of the presence of armed plain clothes personnel engaged in dynamic law enforcement operations. That course of action ensured effective communication

in the spirit of maximum public and officer safety. Senate Bill 54 outlawed each of those practices, foreseeably increasing the risk to the public, law enforcement personnel and even the suspects themselves. It is impossible to imagine a safer environment in which to effectuate the arrest of a criminal suspect than simply transferring that person from the jurisdiction of one law enforcement agency to another within the confines of a secure jail, a setting in which no one is armed, and escape is virtually impossible. Similarly, the capture of a fugitive with the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel present in marked patrol cars, with ready communication capabilities with their federal colleagues, facilitated optimum elements for a safe outcome. Nonetheless, the California legislature and governors, past and present, embraced this extraordinarily ill-conceived law and in so doing, hampered the safety of legitimate, statutorily, and constitutionally sanctioned law enforcement operations. Effective January 1, 2018. ICE personnel were removed from the jails forthwith. No communication between and among state and local law enforcement personnel could take place. This eliminated the potential of an illegal immigrant with an egregiously violent criminal history, freshly arrested for a violation of state law to be properly referred to ICE. For those of us who closely watch the actions of the California legislature, there was specific frustration with this course of conduct. Because the US Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4) clearly delegates immigration enforcement power to the

Federal Government, preventing individual states from having their own processes for naturalization. Additionally, the US Supreme Court decided in Arizona v United States (2012), that immigration enforcement and naturalization is the sole prevue of the federal government. In addition to the Constitutionally enumerated duty of the federal government to enforce immigration law, the U.S. Congress has codified specific laws in statute, i.e.: 8 U.S.C.1325 which makes it a crime for an alien to enter or even attempt to enter the U.S. at a time or place not designated by immigration officials, or to elude inspection. It is a misdemeanor for the first offense, but it can become a felony if the person has been previously deported and re-enters without authorization, or if that person commits other violations of law. Congress has also funded ICE, and the Executive Branch has given clear direction to personnel in ICE to enforce the law. The foregoing represents the law of the land in the United States of America in 2025. A person with a modicum of sixth-grade civics knowledge should understand that if there is dissatisfaction with the law, there are means by which laws can be changed. However, the notion of duly elected members of the legislative and executive branch of any state government simply and overtly defying the law is unconscionable. The common refrain from Governor Newsom includes an assertion that the actions of the federal government in immigration law enforcement is a denial of democracy. Every Californian should know that federal immigration personnel enforcing the laws created and funded by a duly

elected Congress, and directed by the Executive Branch of the government, in a manner consistent with the language expressed in the U.S. Constitution, is the essence of democracy. Citizens who oppose the law have a right and arguably a duty to endeavor to change the law. Defiance of the law is not the answer. Apropos of nothing above, but consistent with Governor Newsom's lack of understanding or willful defiance of the fundamentals of democracy is evidenced by another development of last November's election, Proposition 36. Nearly seventy percent of the California electorate passed Proposition 36; it passed in each of the very diverse fifty-eight counties in California. A significant portion of that proposition was the demand for treatment of chronic drug offenders. The people spoke clearly through that democratic act. Yet, Governor Newsom refuses to ensure funding for that critical treatment. It appears Governor Newsom is resistant democracy when he does not like the decisions of the voters. To be clear, there is room for improvement on both sides of the divide. Constitutional officers should never waiver from their oath to the Constitution, and dignified communication facilitates the optimal outcomes. Perhaps we heed President Abraham Lincoln and invoke our *Better Angels*. California and the nation deserve better. John McGinness, MS is the retired sheriff of Sacramento County, an adjunct professor of criminal justice and host of the John McGinness Show on KFBK. He can be reached at 916-924-3901 or at john.jpm.solutions@gmailcom. ★

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