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Historic U-2 Dragon
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Uptown Girls Block Party



Allie Mardesich and Maddi Mardesich-Klein are shown here at The Farmer's Wives Boutique. Kourtney Becker and Brooke Mardesich not shown.

Story and photos
by Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Farmer's Wives Boutique at the Kentucky & Hazel Street corner in Gridley celebrated one year in business with a delightful block party from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. A number of street vendors and many enthusiastic

shoppers showed up for the event.

The Farmer's Wives Boutique opened last August, originally on Spruce Street. Partners Kourtney Becker, Brooke & Ally Mardesich, & Maddi Mardesich-Klein made the decision to move to the larger Hazel Street location for more visibility and foot traffic.

Some remodeling has been done,

but the older building has a rustic charm. According to the plaque on the outside, Hall's General Store occupied the location, and it was built about 1885.

Dozens of customers thronged the store, eager to find good deals on children's and women's clothing, locally made jewelry, Christmas

Continued on page 3

Biggs Moves Quickly on Electric Utility Emergency

By Susan Meeker

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The City of Biggs is confronting an increasingly urgent financial crisis within its electric utility, which prompted a \$1 million emergency transfer from the city's General Fund reserves to offset historic losses.

The bold measure is what officials said was necessary when the City Council adopted Biggs' operating budget in a special meeting on June 30, which reflects the city's urgent response to years of persistent operating losses within its municipal utility.

"The Electric Fund has experienced a continuing structural deficit over the last several years," previous Interim City Administrator Cliff Wagner noted in a staff report for his last day on the job. "Expenses have exceeded revenues even after cost reductions. The Electric Fund has lost over \$1 million in recent years and is on a financially unsustainable path without reform."

City administration plans to work with Michigan-based Utility Financial Solutions to evaluate the fund's financial trajectory and to recommend comprehensive reforms, which may include increasing customer rates to offset costs of services.

The one-time emergency use of reserves underscores years of cumulative deficits, with staff confirming persistent losses despite some short-term stabilization reflected in the 2024 audited financials.

Prior annual budgets flagged the Electric Fund as structurally unsound, with operating expenses, including wholesale power purchases, system maintenance, and customer services consistently exceeding revenues. Contributing factors include legacy rate structures that no longer align with the city's energy cost realities, lack of automated metering infrastructure, and insufficient in-city electric generation capacity, the staff report noted.

Most notable increases in cost for the utility were fire services, infrastructure maintenance, and power procurement. In past budget cycles, city leaders opted for temporary adjustments and deferred capital investments to shield ratepayers from steep hikes.

Although reform efforts began, such as exploring in-city generation and rate restructuring, significant changes were not enacted in time to reverse fiscal year 2024 losses.

Continued on page 4

Welcome Home Champs!

Live Oak Celebrated All-Stars with Welcome Home Parade



Live Oak Little League All-Stars 10-12 Softball Western Region Semi-Finalists are: Alleyah Palacio, Eveya Martinez, Mackenzie Bole, Sofia Rivera, Charlotte Dudek, Athena Hough, Riley Perigo, Juliana Robles, Adelina Tapia, Yuritzi Garcia and Delilah Smith. Photo courtesy of Ryan Dudek

By Seti Long

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The small town of Live Oak was bursting at the seams with pride last Saturday, Aug. 2, as they celebrated the return of Little League Softball All-Star Girls 10-12 from the Western National Little League Tournament.

The team has been making waves across the North State as they have won their way to victories in a historic post-season, including titles of T.O.C Champions, District All-Stars, Northern California State Champions and Western Region Semi-Finalists.

The Little League Softball All-Star Girls 10-12 team played valiantly in the Western



Locals turned out with fan-gear and cameras on point, documenting and celebrating the historic wins of the 10-12 Softball All-Stars. Photo courtesy of Michele Curiel

Regional Tournament to only to fall to Southern California in a North/South California softball face-off July 25.

Regardless, the girls returned as home-town heroes, having ignited a spark of spirit that ripped through the Live Oak

community and further, catching the eyes of area towns and the nation, as people tuned into watch

Continued on page 3

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Definitions of Embrace: 1. to hold (someone) closely in one's arms, especially as a sign of affection 2. an act of accepting or supporting something willingly or enthusiastically. We were at the Brulte beach house in Newport last week and my little grandson wandered off. A text message went out to the group and soon 20-plus people were mobilized and fanned out to bring back the adventurous Theodore. Not long after he was found he was scooped up in the arms of his mother. The combined relief and joy were so strong that you

could feel it. As I watched the waves later that day, I was reminded of how many times I have seen an embrace so powerful that it causes a wave of warmth, relief, peace and happiness so powerful you feel it through your body and into your soul. I remembered when my daughter Rikaela hugged her then-boyfriend, now husband, at his front door after they had both finished their Church missions in Chile and Yap. Then I remembered one late night when, as a Chaplain, I was with the Butte County Sheriff's SWAT team and they had successfully surrounded a building and got a bad guy to come out - with no one getting hurt - and one of the Deputies whom I didn't even recognize grabbed me and hugged me, happy that it was over and no one was killed. Another memory that surfaced is a late night at the Chico National Guard Armory when the 649th Engineer Company

returned from a tour in the Gulf and Chaplain Friedman and I were with the families as the spouses and children flung themselves into the arms of their returning soldiers. My daughter Mokie had five eye surgeries when she was a baby - and each time they brought her back to the recovery room and put her in the arms of her mother it was electric. That same Mokie was at the front gates of the Silver Dollar Fair with her mother as they opened the facility to receive evacuees from the fire and an older woman who was standing, sobbing because she had to leave her cat as her house burned down - fell into Mokie's arms as Mokie held her. No words just an embrace. Love when expressed so purely, so sincerely and so honestly is powerful. Hug someone you love today.

Josh F.W. Cook is an alumnus of Cal State East Bay. ★

One Way or Two?

Biggs City Council Considers Changing Directions

By Connie Voss

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The July 22 Biggs City Council meeting began with public comment, followed by the council acknowledging a local veteran.

Interim City Administrator Rodney Harr read a Memorial Resolution in honor of Salvador Ramirez Antunez, a long-time Biggs resident who passed away April of this year. The resolution came from State Senator Megan Dahle, and recognized Antunez' contributions to the community. Antunez was a Vietnam veteran and a teacher at Chico Unified School District for 29 years, Harr read.

Next, an informational presentation was made remotely by California Consulting for grant writing services. Representing the firm were Samantha D'Ambrosio and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Steve Samuelian, who highlighted some of the grants the company secured for nearby communities such as Oroville and Gridley. Harr responded that he would be contacting the company.

No action was taken on a proposal to convert First Street from one-way traffic back to two-way traffic, between B Street and Aleut Street. The present one-way configuration was a result of an engineering study in 2019 for safety and visibility of those dropping off and picking up school students. However, the long-time residents of the area said they did not see problems for decades prior to the change in 2019. A petition was circulated by resident John Crawford listing residents who want the old two-way street back.

Resident Robert Krampitz pointed out that because of the one-way designation, residents have to drive around the block to travel out of Biggs. Krampitz shared that one local recently suffered a heart attack and illegally avoided the round-about route, they felt that doing so may have saved their life. In addition, the newly passed regulation in California, AB 413 which requires mandatory 20-foot red zones around every intersection, will help the visibility concerns, Krampitz said.

Council members Doug Arnold and Anita Wilks indicated that they supported the change and the residents who were requesting it. However, Mayor Sheppard requested that the safety issues be discussed with local police and revisited at the next council meeting in two weeks.

The council then considered three bid proposals for fire hydrant replacement at Bannock and Seventh streets, with either a C-900 or ductile iron hydrant. According to Paul Pratt, public works director, both models are good, but ductile iron is slightly more expensive with fewer connections. The latter was approved and cost for the replacement will be \$16,195, from Blue Collar Plumbing Operations, LLC.

For department reports, City Clerk Roben Benish announced that the filing period for the city council vacancy is open until Aug. 8. Councilmember Wilks attended a meeting at the Neal Road Landfill, regarding keeping costs down for residents.

The meeting was then adjourned to closed session to respond to a request from United Public Employees of California. ★



Gridley Has New Animal Control Officer

Story and photos by Connie Voss

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley's new Animal Control Officer, Savanna Gorton, was introduced at the regular city council meeting on July 21. Gorton's first day on the job was June 16.

Gorton moved to Gridley when she was a fifth grader and graduated from Gridley High School.

Having worked as a certified veterinary assistant for seven years, Gorton brings her experience and a love of animals to the post. This is Gorton's first animal control job.

Currently, there are seven dogs and seven cats at the Gridley shelter. About four or five arrivals come every week, Gorton said. The shelter is a safe haven until pets are claimed.

"Usually, the turnaround is pretty quick. Owners realize their pets are gone and come find them," said Gorton.

An impoundment fee of \$133 is required for reclaiming a pet, as well as proof of ownership. The fee increases for second and third offences. If the dog or cat is unaltered, there is an additional charge of \$35. That fee also goes up if the animal is caught roaming again. Any unlicensed dogs must be licensed before discharge.

The good news is that the Gridley shelter is a 'low-kill' facility, meaning that unless the animals are too aggressive or extremely sick, they are not euthanized. Adoptable animals are kept until homes are found for them.

One such animal is 'Boss,' a friendly



Animal Control Officer Savanna Gorton poses with 'Boss', who was abandoned at the shelter in April. Boss is available for adoption.

three-year-old male pit bull cross that was abandoned at the shelter last April. Despite the posted warning on the fence outside of the shelter, Boss was found tied to the outdoor dog-run fence. Even with electronic surveillance, the dog's former owner could not be identified.

Abandoning an animal in Butte County is against the law and carries criminal penalties of up to a \$1,000 fine, and as much as six months in jail, as stated in Butte County Code of Ordinances.

However, Boss' former owner's loss will be the new owner's gain. Boss was immediately very friendly when the Gridley Herald visited the shelter.

Gorton indicated that "Boss has a calm demeanor, but also really loves toys. Other times, he just wants to lie on the couch."

Due to overcrowding,

surrenders to the shelter are discouraged, and Gorton recommends that unwanted pets be taken to local rescues.

Adoptions are sorely needed, especially for cats, Gorton said. The fees depend on whether the animal is already spayed or neutered. Altered cats can be taken home for \$33, and dogs (including Boss) are available for \$40. For an unaltered animal, there is an additional deposit of \$50 for dogs and \$40 for cats. These funds are held by the shelter and returned once the animal is spayed or neutered, Gorton explained.

There were three adoptions in July. However, some months there aren't any, according to Gorton.

Those interested in adopting a pet can call Gridley Animal Control at 530-846-4825, or Officer Gorton at 530-789-1724. ★



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Uptown Girls Block Party



Here is Cassie Dunlap of Wild Rye Farm Stand with some of her merchandise.

Continued from page 1
ornaments, hats, toys and custom-made decorative signs. There were so many people in the store that the Gridley Herald was barely able to snap some pictures.

Outdoors, there were at least seven vendors, some with stores downtown, and some without. One vendor, Cassie Dunlap of Wild Rye Farm Stand, came from Dixon. Dunlap offers homemade vegetables, homemade preserves, organic syrup and a body scrub. Dunlap is a stay-at-home mom with two children, who does this business as a part-time job without a brick-and-mortar storefront.

When asked how she likes having her own business, Dunlap said "It's great. It allows me to work at home, and I have two children, getting them involved with gardening and making things, I think is really fruitful for them as well."

At another booth, Eliza Sannar advertised the opening this month of "The Pilates Room," two doors down from the Farmer's Wives Boutique.



The Sweetie's store in Gridley is also celebrating one year in business at the Uptown Girls Block Party.

Sannar offered a drawing for store discounts. Pilates is a system of physical conditioning developed by Joseph Pilates, emphasizing posture, flexibility, balance and overall body awareness through repetitive exercises. The exercises can be beneficial for arthritis Sannar said, which is one reason she became interested in the

program. Music and a food truck, "Potato, Pototo," made the event fun for all. Gridley's own "Sweeties" was present, celebrating one year in business as well. Many thanks to Farmer's Wives Boutique for planning and sponsoring this event. Best wishes for success to all of the small business who participated. ★



Custom-designed hats, offered by Taya LaForce and family, are seen here outside of Farmer's Wives Boutique.

Welcome Home Champs!



Liiliiiiive Ooooooak! Players and coaches hold up the number one and show off their championship medals just before the parade. Photo courtesy of Michele Curiel

Continued from page 1
them play on ESPN and partake in the excitement.

With team banners posted throughout Live Oak on street corners along the highways, and flags furling in the breeze displaying each team member and their info, the streets around the little league fields filled with supporters and fans.

A parade consisting of local law enforcement and fire, city and county officials, little league officials, coaches, families and of course, the All-Stars, made their way through town, waving to a considerable turnout.

Key community players, such as Michele Curiel who helped raise and spread support for the team, including organizing sponsors for banners and the parade, spoke to the public gathered.

Little league President Noel Grove, Manager Art Rivera, coaches Evay Martinez, Ryan Hough, Juan Robles and Head Coach Mitchell Perigo all shared their pride and experiences during the team's moment of fame.

Coach Perigo shared with the Herald and the community, the following in his speech to the community,

"Watching our girls make history as the first team from Live Oak to reach the Little League World Series Regionals, all the way to those heart-stopping semi-finals, has been nothing short of a dream. As someone who grew up here, played Live Oak Little League, and graduated from Live Oak High School, this community means everything to me. Last year, our goal was just to win a banner. This year, we aimed for TV, and these girls delivered," said Perigo. "We've witnessed their sweat, their tears and their unwavering determination. But what truly touched our hearts was the sight of all of you – our pride."

Perigo also thanked the public, the sponsors and businesses that fueled the team and also supported them.

"These girls have set a new standard for



Gridley High School teacher, Steve Allard, lends his DJ skills at the celebration honoring the homecoming of Live Oaks champion softball team. Photo courtesy of Michele Curiel

Live Oak softball, and we know they'll come back even stronger next year, ready to surpass it. They've shown everyone in our town that anything is possible with hard work and dedication. This journey has been an inspiration to anyone who sets goals and strives for success, proving that hard work truly pays off," said Perigo.

Perigo shares that only three players will age out of the team for the 2026 Little League season, but pitchers Charlotte Dudek and Eveya Martinez will return. The team has again set a high bar of achievement, looking to take the Western Regional Finals title and move further into the national playoffs next year.

Summing up the experience, Coach Perigo said, "This isn't just about softball; it's about community, about dreams, and about the power of togetherness. From the bottom of our hearts – from me, as their coach, and from the girls themselves – thank you for making this ride unforgettable. Alright fans let's hear it! Liiliiiiive Ooooooooak!" ★



Little League Coaches of the championship softball team rode in a black impala, just ahead of the school bus that transported the Live Oak Little League 10-12 All-Stars down the parade route. Coaches in the back hold one of the championship banners that the team collected in their post-season play. Photo courtesy of Michele Curiel

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Biggs Moves Quickly on Electric Utility Emergency



The one-time emergency use of reserves underscores years of cumulative deficits. Photo by Nikko via Pixabay

Continued from page 1

Going into the 2025/26 budget cycle, the Biggs City Council now insists on structural reforms. Utility Financial Solutions is a consulting firm used nationwide that typically deploy strategies such as assessing the financial trajectory of electric systems, recommending new rate restructuring, and modernization initiatives, including in-city energy generation to reduce dependence on outside sources.

Aside from the electric utility crisis, the City of Biggs entered the new fiscal year with a stable General Fund outlook, supported by consistent revenue streams such as property taxes, franchise fees, and business licensing.

Operational departments, including law enforcement, fire protection, public works, and administrative services, will continue delivering core municipal functions with moderate cost increases - offset by prudent fiscal planning and state grant allocations, officials said.

Public Safety experienced contrasting trends, with fire service funding rising by 42.2%, from \$312,006 in 2024/25 to \$443,743, while police

services saw a 16% reduction, from \$530,559 to \$505,143, for the same time period, under the Gridley Police Department contract. Street and infrastructure improvements received a boost, with public works funding rising from roughly \$465,000 to more than \$700,000, leveraging gas tax revenues and regional grants. Parks and Recreation received a modest lift from \$136,748 to \$142,496, and City Administration increased from \$215,170 to \$228,442, due to expanded legal and professional service needs. Finance and utility billing operations also saw a moderate rise, moving from \$168,923 to \$176,115 to support system enhancements and staffing.

Personnel costs in the City of Biggs remain consistent at approximately \$1.1 million, reflecting just 13.6% of total spending, a lean model made possible through extensive use of contracted services, officials said.

Beyond the General Fund, the City of Biggs' total \$8.0 million budget package includes enterprise funds, such as Electric, Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste, along with restricted funds like Capital Projects,

Gas Tax, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Community Development Block Grants, although timely use is required to avoid reversion of funds to the state, officials said.

The Water Tank Fund remains on hold due to a \$437,979 shortfall pending external grant approvals. Solid Waste and several other deficit funds will be resolved through authorized internal transfers. Community development programming includes \$34,000 in new allocations from CDBG reserves, which currently exceed \$150,000.

While the City Council's adopted 2025/26 budget is largely stable across most municipal operations, city officials said the Electric Fund's financial instability remains the city's most pressing financial risk, demanding swift and strategic action to safeguard long-term viability.

New Interim City Administrator Rodney Harr replaces Wagner, whose budget recommendation marked his last official duty to the city.

Wagner became Interim City Administrator for the City of Biggs in early November 2024, following the administrative leave and eventual termination of Josh Cook. ★

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, Aug. 8: Sure Start family story time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

Tuesday, Aug. 12: 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, Aug. 13: 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, Aug. 14: Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Friday, Aug. 15: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) Ladies' Night Out movie, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (G)

Saturday, Aug. 16: Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

Saturday, Aug. 9 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 (#3 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

Once in a Blue Moon Lunar Market

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Movement Arts of Chico, 254 E. 1st St., Chico. This pop-up market highlights over 50 local artists, makers, vendors, and musicians. Add in food and drink and this is the perfect place for you to spend your Saturday evening.

Thursday, Aug. 21 through Sunday, Aug: 24 Butte County Fair

199 East Hazel St. Tree-lined streets, children laughing, the aroma of fair food, fun events and shows - this is a feel-good family event. See www.buttecountyfair.org for daily schedules and more information.

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 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 Aug. 12 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

Butte County Board of Supervisors generally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at 25 County Center Drive, Suite 205, Oroville. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 12 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

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

Gridley City Council meets on the first and third Monday each month, 6 p.m. to 7p.m. in the council chambers, 685 Kentucky St. Meeting agendas are posted to the following site on the Friday prior to each meeting: <http://gridley.ca.us/government-and-departments/city-council> The next meeting will be Monday Aug. 18.

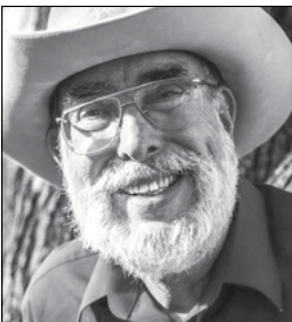
Gridley Senior Group Breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. includes Bingo at 9:30 a.m. Gridley Recreation Center 194 Washington St. For more information, call 530-846-3264.

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, Aug. 13. 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 Aug. 20.

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. ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

You know, we're enjoying summer right now, and to this old High Sierra packer, that means it's time for mules. Naturally, there is no one time for mules, but pack station veterans, such as this one, know that summers, like this one, should be spent up there where you can hold out your hand and drop a rock a thousand feet.

When I packed for Gene Burkhart at Sequoia-Kings Pack Trains, we almost always rode horses, and packed mules. Just seemed to work out better that way. After I'd done this a few years, I didn't need to ask the older packers why we "kids" (young men, actually. Fierce of brow and weak of arm) why we didn't ride mules.

Here's why:

Horses are comparatively stupid and mules are smart, especially in the mountains. In many cases, the mules were smarter than we who loaded them up. A cowboy can sometimes convince a horse to tackle a tricky part of the trail just because he thinks we know what we're doing. A mule? Nope.

Horses are Comparatively Stupid and Mules are Smart

The reasons mules are so popular with packers was summed up well by my friend Slim Nivens of Pine Creek Pack Station out of Bishop. I was one of those teenagers back then in the 1950s, who had to know everything by Tuesday at 3 o'clock.

Slim was generous and patient with me. "Slim (which is my name, too), the difference between a horse and a mule is really pretty simple. You put a horse and a mule on the edge of a cliff and drive a fire engine at them. Red lights, siren, the whole works. Well, that horse sees that and will jump off the cliff, no matter what's on his back at the time. The mule, however, will not be rushed into a decision. He'll ponder whether it's better to stand there and get hit by that fire truck, or to jump and be killed. Then he'll do one or the other, but he'll do what he thinks is best."

Mules, he said, don't panic. A horse on the other hand, especially a young horse just learning how to haul me around on a trail, will probably kill me one way or another.

Another thing about a mule: you only have to teach them something once. They'll remember it the rest of their lives. Good

things and not-so-good things. There's one little spot on the Sawmill Pass trail, for example, where the little four-year-old I was teaching unknowingly stepped in the middle of a rattlesnake stretched across the trail. Fortunately, the horse spooked uphill or someone else would be writing this.

Didn't help the snake's afternoon, either. The mule I was leading that day (I had four or five after her) got a good scare with that snake. Her name was Lady. Well, the little horse nicely filed that snake episode in the round file, But for years after that, every time Lady came to that spot in the trail, she'd slam on the brakes, blow atomic snot on a half acre of rocks, and had to be convinced that the snake wasn't there any more. Even in pitch dark.

Mules, being a hybrid cross between a mare and a stud jack donkey, is much better than either of its parents. And if I have moments of silence and smiles on warm summer days, please excuse me. My best friends in those days weren't always the other cowboys.

To learn more about the wonders of mules, read *Sun Dog Days by Slim Randles*. He could use the money. ★

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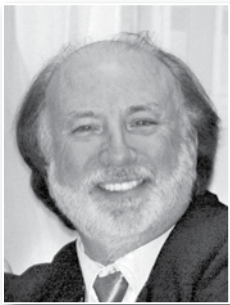
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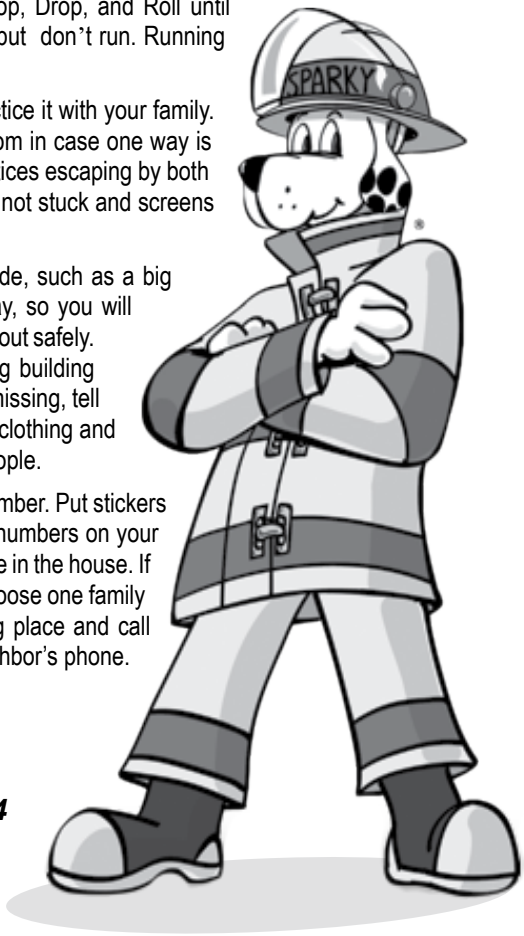
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SPARKY'S CORNER

10 Fire Safety Rules

- 1) Don't play with matches and lighters. If you see matches or a lighter where you can reach them, don't touch them. Go tell a grown up right away.
- 2) Ask your parents to install smoke detectors on every floor and in the sleeping areas of your home. Smoke detectors can save lives. Ask your parents to show you where each one is located.
- 3) Remind your parents to test your smoke detectors every month. Make sure everyone in your family is familiar with its piercing sound. Teach them that this sound means danger, and they must escape quickly.
- 4) When your parents change the time on your clocks for Daylight Savings, ask them to change your smoke alarm batteries. Give it fresh batteries and your smoke alarm will stay awake and watch for fire while you are sleeping.
- 5) In case of fire: DON'T HIDE, GO OUTSIDE! Fires are scary, but you should NEVER hide in closets or under beds when there is a fire.
- 6) To escape during a fire; Fall & Crawl. It is easier to breath in a fire if you stay low while getting out. Use the back of your hand to test if a door is hot before you open it. If it is hot, try to use another way out.
- 7) If your clothes are on fire; Stop, Drop, and Roll until the fire is out. Shout for help, but don't run. Running makes fire burn faster.
- 8) Have an escape plan and practice it with your family. Find two ways out of every room in case one way is blocked by fire or smoke. Practices escaping by both routes to be sure windows are not stuck and screens can be taken out quickly.
- 9) Choose a meeting place outside, such as a big tree or the end of the driveway, so you will know that everyone has gotten out safely. NEVER go back into a burning building for any reason. If someone is missing, tell the firefighters. They have the clothing and equipment to safely rescue people.
- 10) Know your local emergency number. Put stickers and magnets with emergency numbers on your refrigerator and every telephone in the house. If there is a fire at your house, choose one family member to leave your meeting place and call the fire department from a neighbor's phone.



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

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

I would really like to make a better way to get a shot that doesn't hurt so much.

– Jacob, 10, Cayman Islands

Dear Jacob,

I love vaccines. They keep us safe from germs that can make us sick. But I don't love how much shots hurt. Sometimes I feel anxious before I visit the veterinarian for a vaccine.

I talked about that with my friend Roland Chen. He's an engineer at Washington State University.

He's working on brand-new needles that could make shots painless. They're called microneedle arrays.

"You feel pain because the needle reaches the pain receptor," Chen said. "Microneedles are much shorter than typical needles. They're about one-third to half the size."

Most vaccines are intramuscular injections. A trained healthcare provider gently slides a hollow needle into the skin. It goes all the way to the muscle. Then they push the vaccine through the needle into the muscle.

Muscles contain lots of blood vessels. So, the vaccine quickly moves into the bloodstream and travels all over the body.

Muscles also contain immune cells. They help the immune system recognize the tiny bit of germ inside the vaccine. That teaches the body to recognize and fight the real germ.

It turns out the skin has lots of blood vessels, too. They're super small blood vessels called capillaries. Skin also contains immune cells. Just like muscles do.

The microneedle array is embedded into a patch kind of like a Band-Aid. The needles are super short. They scratch the top layer of the skin and deliver the vaccine to the capillaries there.

Much smaller needles and a little scratch means this kind of shot doesn't hurt.

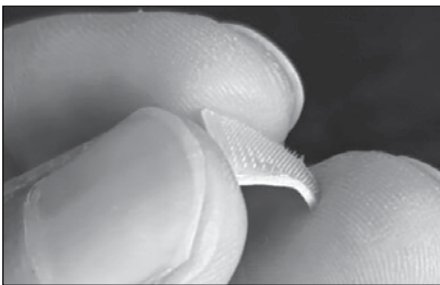
This shot is also easier to use and throw away. Anyone can apply the patch. After it's done, the patch can go right into the trash. It doesn't require a special container to

keep people from poking themselves with a used needle.

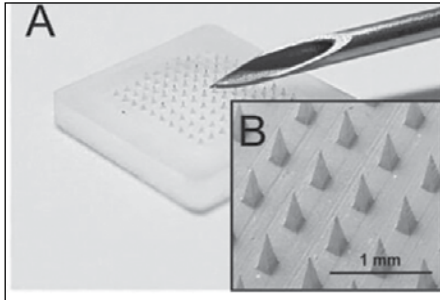
"There are a lot of people working on this and a few organizations pushing it," Chen said. "It would be especially useful in rural areas or countries where they don't have enough trained medical personnel."

Microneedles would also help people with eye diseases who need regular shots in their eyeballs. That's what Dr. Chen studies. His design could make treatment for those diseases much more comfortable.

It takes a while for new medical technology to become available. Scientists must test it. They have to figure out how



This off-white patch (left) is a microneedle array that Dr. Chen developed and 3D printed.



You can see the difference between the itty-bitty microneedles and a traditional hollow needle (right).. Images: Kuen-Ren Roland Chen, Aaron McConville, Catherine Hegarty, and James Davis CC BY 4.0

to make lots of it and package the tech so it arrives safely. That testing is happening right now.

People also need time to get used to new things—even new things that help us out. Chen told me there's a good chance we'll see pain-free shots within the next 3 to 5 years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

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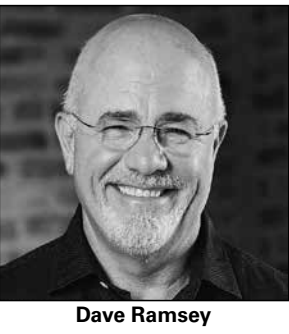
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Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I'm 22, working my way through college and I've already been able to start setting money for life after graduation. I had a talk with my parents recently about my plans once I get a real job and get out on my own. They seem to think I'll be okay, but sometimes things can seem so overwhelming. How do people manage and prioritize more adult responsibilities like investing, marriage, having kids and everything else?

— Kieran

Dear Kieran,

You're right, it can be overwhelming if you look at all these things as if they have to be done right now. But I'll tell you something you already know: You don't have to do everything right now. It's great to look toward the future, and have a plan, but you're only 22. You've got plenty of time to decide what's important to you. For now, let's just say you've done

Dave Ramsey Says Focus on What's Important Now

a great job so far. Take a deep breath and relax. You're way ahead of the game compared to most young people your age, and you should be proud of your accomplishments.

Now, all the things you mentioned are great goals. Some of them are kind of intimidating, but those aren't what you're facing right now. In my mind, finishing college is your number one priority. Then, after you graduate and begin life on your own, you can begin looking at the other things you mentioned—one at a time. Once you find a good job, you can begin setting aside for retirement. If your car is about to roll over and die, that first step may be a better vehicle. If there's a special lady in your life, you might begin focusing on marriage somewhere down the road.

Don't be too intimidated, Kieran. Things are often easier to deal with when you break them down into smaller pieces and address them individually. There's a funny old adage that goes something like this: How do you eat

an elephant? One bite at a time. Do you get what I'm saying? Nobody can do four or five big things at once and do them all to the very best of their abilities. Decide what matters most, put it at the top, and list everything else in descending order of importance. Once you've done this, go down the list, focus and knock them out one after the other.

You're a smart and determined young man, who has accomplished a lot already. Something tells me you can do just about anything you set your mind to!

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling 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

Miracle of miracles there has been a toad sighting. The husband was out in a small space behind our garage and next to the shared fence. This is an area I rarely enter. He was washing off one of his machines and out crawled a good size toad about four-five inches. I know that toads want cool moisture but don't want too much water except when

they are breeding. Some of the toads I brought into the yards were captured by pouring water into their burrow and out they came and were captured. I'm so tempted to put water in the toad hole to see who else is there. I am resisting this I want them to be happy in the home they've made. I say "they" because I brought 16 young toads of varying sizes into the yard. I think more than one had to survive. I'm thrilled with the one. Now, I want to see it. Are these toads why I'm seeing fewer snails? Are they traveling throughout the flower beds? I'm guessing they are moving around within the flowerbeds and so their poops are not showing up. I'll be planning a

toad party.

The Gridley Community Garden on Jackson St. is a gift to the community. They have free compost. Bring buckets and shovel the compost: they have turning forks available. There are two working compost areas that are not for the taking but the third one is available. The two unavailable composts have signs. The gate is open all of the time. Their compost is a living thing full of worm babies. I got the rougher compost which means not sieved. I'm using it for mulch. In the fall I'm planning on sieving the compost for finer soil for the garden. They want you to take it, they are making it for you. ★



Peach Growers Praise Fruit Quality as Yields Dip

Mild temperatures in the Central Valley were kind to peaches used for canning this month as farmers harvested their early varieties. "The quality of the fruit is looking really good," Sutter County farmer Chetan Khara said. Growers were projected to supply around 224,000 tons of cling peaches to canneries this year, the California Canning Peach Association estimated, a slight reduction from last year. However, the association reported that early yields were down roughly 12% from initial estimates. Last summer's extreme heat and an unusual bloom pattern this past winter and spring "may have hurt some of our production," said Thomas Gradziel, professor of plant sciences at the University of California, Davis.

Federal Forestry Cuts Fuel Wildfire, Resource Concerns

With wildfire conditions in California expected to increase in coming months, state officials expressed concerns about cuts in staff and funding at the U.S. Forest Service, a division of the Agriculture Department that partners with the state to fight wildfires and manage forests. The proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2026 includes a reduction in Forest Service spending, including for fire suppression. "The key is we need to scale up across the board if we are going to meet our targets and keep our communities safe," said Patrick Wright, executive director of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. "This causes real concern in the federal ability to step up and meet our joint targets."

California's Fresh Apples Compete Against Old Washington Fruit

Harvest of Gala apples—the earliest commercial variety to arrive in stores—has started in the Central Valley, with the fruit hitting produce aisles this week. Because California starts picking apples several weeks before Washington state—the nation's leading producer—providing the first fresh apples of the year is a key selling point. "As foreign imports start to drop off, last year's fruit from the Pacific Northwest will remain the only competition for the start of the season," said Todd Sanders, executive director of the California Apple Commission. Unlike the Evergreen State, which keeps its apples in cold storage and sells them long after harvest ends, apples from the Golden State are picked, packed and shipped fresh.

On The Record: Ricardo Lara Discusses California's Insurance Crisis

California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara spoke with Ag Alert® this month about the state's insurance crisis and his strategy to stop insurance companies from leaving California and restore access to property insurance for farmers and rural communities. California's Sustainable Insurance Strategy allows insurers to use catastrophe modeling to better assess modern-day risks—and to pass along the rising cost of reinsurance—in exchange for committing to expand insurance access in high-risk areas. "Our job is to make insurance more available, reliable and fair, especially for those in high-risk, rural areas," Lara said. "I want farmers to know that we are fighting for them and that we're not going to stop until we fix this crisis." ★

Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



Imagine having the confidence to forgo college basketball entirely and jump straight from high school to professional basketball. That's what Jonathan Kuminga did and so did Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. Things turned out pretty well for those two, and it may turn out well for Kuminga too. The only question is, will it be in a Sacramento Kings uniform?

Well, that's the question on the mind of every Kings fan, largely because that's the current talk of the town.

The Warriors, after surprising everyone and acquiring Jimmy Butler late last season, are apparently prepared to part ways with 22-year old Kuminga, and the Sacramento Kings are interested.

Should the two teams come to an agreement, the Kings would finally complete the missing piece they have long been looking for, front court help to compliment Keegan Murray.

The Kings have met with Kuminga and it's been reported that Kuminga is eager to join the beam team, and travel 90 miles north to unite with the Warriors closest rival.

Times in San Francisco have been tumultuous for young Kuminga, and he has fallen into disfavor with coach Steve Kerr. Stories vary as to the reason for his fall from grace, but reportedly Kerr is unhappy with Kuminga's desire to elevate his game and not play within the team style that Kerr desires.

Without question, Kuminga's beginning in the NBA could not have been any meteoric, as the Warriors captured the NBA title in Kuminga's rookie season.

Kuminga contributed nearly 10 points per game in his rookie campaign while logging just under 17 minutes per game.

Kuminga has steadily improved his game, but he has plateaued the past 2 season's averaging 15 points and just under 5 rebounds per game.

The age-old problem of minutes is the issue, and with stars Stephen Curry, Jimmy Butler, and Draymond Green, breaking into the starting lineup does not appear to be a realistic outcome for Kuminga.

The Kings are undoubtedly assuring a starting position in the negotiations, and Kuminga has expressed a real interest in joining the Sactown boys.

I can envision the first time the Warriors

come to town, with Kuminga lighting things up and showing the Warriors what they passed up on. Maybe lighting the beam with a smile to match.

This is not a done deal Kings fans, but it is not pie in the sky either. If the Warriors don't move Kuminga this season, they will run the risk of him signing elsewhere and receiving no compensation. Suffice to say, the Warriors are smarter than that, so making a good deal for Kuminga now makes loads of sense, and I believe Scott Perry is trying to help the Warriors do just that.

If reports are accurate, that means the Kings will in all probability say goodbye to Malik Monk, while including a first-round draft choice in the deal. The sticking point has been whether the pick will be unrestricted, and it's my view that in all likelihood the Kings may have to acquiesce to get this trade consummated.

Without question the NBA has yet to see the best of Kuminga, and there is no question in my mind that this talented young player could be the missing ingredient the Kings have long been looking for.

Sadly, trades that are as public as this one rarely come to fruition, so say your prayers Kings fans, because I do not see a down side to welcoming Kuminga into the Sactown family!

Summertime can be tormenting for true basketball fans, and with the summer league concluding, trade rumors that can change the landscape of the hometown team in a positive way, are just what Kings fans need to while away the hours waiting for training camp to begin.

Not to be lost in the Kuminga hype, is current Kings power forward Trey Lyles who is currently a free agent. At 6'9" and 234 lbs., Lyles represents a big body and someone that the Kings can count on off the bench. Losing him would be a critical mistake and would remind me of the faux pas made just a season ago when Davion Mitchell slipped through their fingers and was unceremoniously traded to the Toronto Raptors.

Stay positive Kings fans, because Scott Perry brings with him much needed experience in the front office, at a time when a steady hand is very much required.

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

California Is Finally Adopting Phonics Fulfilling A Grandmother's Dream



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Marion Joseph died in 2022 and therefore cannot celebrate what at long last is happening in California to improve children's abysmal levels of reading comprehension.

Joseph, a renowned expert on reading instruction, came out of retirement in the 1980s to wage a personal crusade for the adoption of phonics, doing battle with educators who stubbornly supported a rival system called "whole language" that was failing to raise reading scores.

Phonics stresses fundamental instruction in the letters and letter combinations that make up sounds, thus allowing children to "sound out" words and later whole sentences and passages. The whole language approach assumes that reading is a naturally learned skill, much like speaking, and that exposing children to reading material will allow it to emerge.

Having realized that her own grandson, then a first-grader, was having difficulty with reading, Joseph began pestering the state's politicians to adopt phonics, persuading then-Gov. Pete Wilson in the 1990s to appoint her to a commission on reading instruction and then the state Board of

Education, platforms from which she could pursue her mission.

However, she achieved only modest success in what were dubbed "reading wars," and after she left the school board the whole language approach re-emerged as dominant.

Reading scores on state and national academic tests continued to languish, with fewer than half of fourth-graders reading at an acceptable level.

School districts that had voluntarily adopted phonics demonstrated remarkable gains. They recognized that the ability to read is fundamental to succeeding in other academic skills, such as mathematics.

Finally substantial numbers of legislators decided to intervene, and a pro-phonics contingent began pushing measures that would compel school districts to adopt what has been dubbed the "science of reading," backed by a phalanx of education reformers.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has struggled with dyslexia, a disorder affecting his ability to read, supported the efforts and included \$200 million in the 2025-26 state budget to train teachers in phonics.

Meanwhile Assembly Bill 1454 is moving quickly through the legislative process. Sponsored by pro-phonics legislators including Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, it would require the state Board of Education to adopt phonics-based instructional materials and include phonics in reading teacher credential programs.

The pro-phonics moves are drawing praise from

EdVoice and dozens of other educational reform groups.

"When a child learns to read, they don't just decode letters on a page, they begin to dream bigger, think more critically, and imagine a future beyond what they can see. Today's committee approval brings us one step closer to all California children reading at grade level," said Marshall Tuck, CEO of Ed Voice, after the bill cleared the Senate Education Committee last week.

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, a West Covina Democrat who has become the Legislature's top phonics advocate, said, "After months of hard work and collaboration, we are making steady progress toward delivering on our promise to teach all California children to read. The support we saw today in the Senate Education Committee moves us closer to ensuring that no child falls through the cracks because they weren't taught to read using scientifically proven reading methods. The continued bipartisan support on this bill tells us that California is ready and motivated to lead on literacy."

The actions fall a bit short of requiring local school districts to adopt phonics, but they go a long way toward achieving Marion Joseph's goal.

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. ★

Juvenile Charged with Hate Crime

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

CHICO, CA (MPG) - A Chico teenager appeared in Butte County Juvenile Court on July 23, regarding allegations of assault with a deadly weapon stemming from racial bias against the victim.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that on July 15, a group of four juveniles, including the 13-year-old male defendant, spotted a 31-year-old Chico State international graduate student as he walked through the Chico State campus on his way home from the grocery

store. As the student attempted to walk through the Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater, the juveniles stood across the creek and yelled racial slurs and made racially charged comments towards him. The 13-year-old juvenile defendant took out a knife and waved it as he continued to yell at the graduate student victim. The victim said he was going to call the police and believed the juveniles were packing up to leave the area.

However, as the graduate student began walking away, the juvenile defendant and another teenaged juvenile male crossed the creek and physically confronted the victim. The juvenile



defendant grabbed a large branch from the ground and hit the victim on the back of the head as the other male juvenile blocked the victim's path with a bike. The graduate student continued to try to get away from the

two juveniles, walking toward the main campus and the juvenile defendant continued to hit the back of the student's body, causing abrasions to the victim's arm and back. The student was eventually able to call 911 and Chico State University Police responded to provide assistance.

Two of the juveniles who were originally involved in the harassment, but remained on the other side of the creek, were located nearby, a 16-year-old female and 14-year-old male and were arrested on allegations of resisting arrest later that day.

Chico State University police gathered nearby surveillance videos and were able to recognize

the 13-year-old juvenile defendant from earlier encounters on campus and put out a be-on-the-lookout alert for his arrest.

Chico Police Department officers located the juvenile defendant on the morning of July 22, in a homeless encampment tent in front of Chico City Council Chambers. CSUC police were called, and the juvenile defendant was arrested. The other male juvenile suspect with the bike is still being sought.

The juvenile's case was put over to July 30, after press time, for further proceedings and entry of a plea. He was remanded to juvenile hall pending that appearance. ★

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LA 8-15-25

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OPTION 8-22-25

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CUBHOUSE 8-22-25

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Danielle Padgett Watson and Eric James Watson, 2799 Grape Way, Chico, CA 95973
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DANI 8-22-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
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Omar Jimenez and Salina Jimenez, PO Bos 138, Biggs, CA 95917
Date filed in Butte County: July 24, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize

the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025
POINT 8-29-25

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW
CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #25CV02371
Petitioner Susan Lorraine Hammontre filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Susan Lorraine Hammontre to Susan Lorraine Moore.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons 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 objecting 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 27, 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 July 2, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2025
MOORE 8-15-25

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
ETTA RUTH MCCABE AKA ETTA R. MCCABE
CASE NO. 25PR00318
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Etta Ruth McCabe aka Etta R. McCabe.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Danielle LeClerc Klein, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Danielle LeClerc Klein be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause

why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: August 19, 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 granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Raoul J. LeClerc, P.O. Drawer 111, Oroville, CA 95965; 530-533-5661
Publish: August 1, 8, 15, 2025
MCCABE 8-15-25

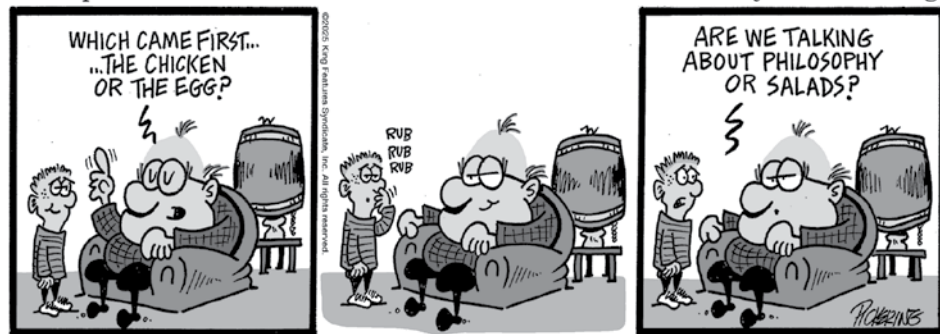
NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
DECIDERIO RODRIGUEZ REYES
AKA DECIDERIO REYES AKA
DECIDERIO RODRIGUEZ
CASE NO. 25PR00121
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Deciderio Rodriguez Reyes aka Deciderio Reyes aka Deciderio Rodriguez.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Martha Bouknight, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Martha Bouknight be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court

approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: August 26, 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 granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Martha Bouknight, 6309 Wexford Circle, Citrus Heights, CA 95621; 916-726-4265
Publish: August 8, 15, 22, 2025
REYES 8-22-25

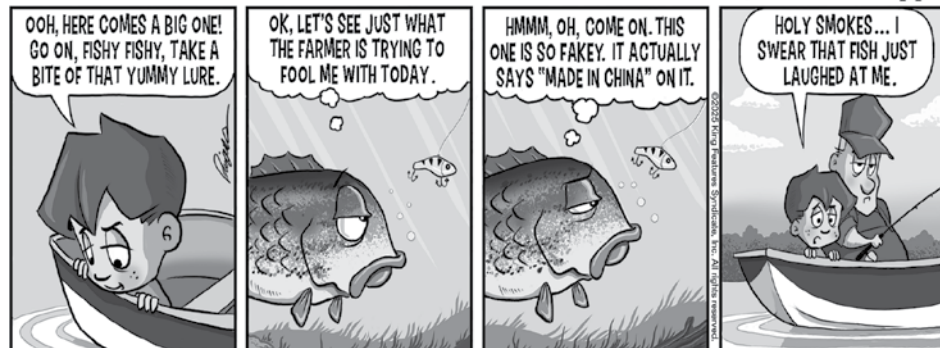

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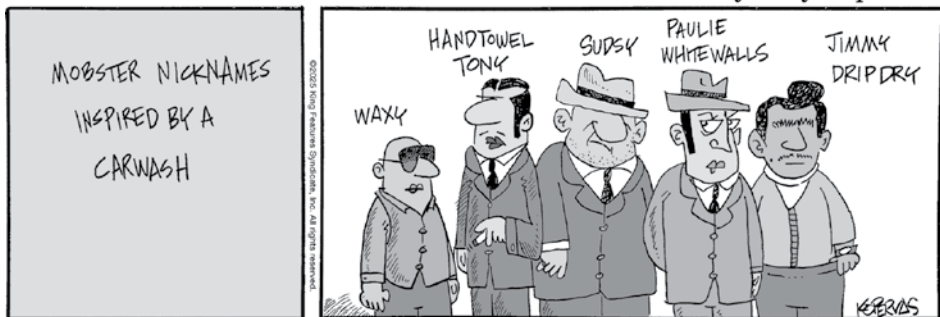
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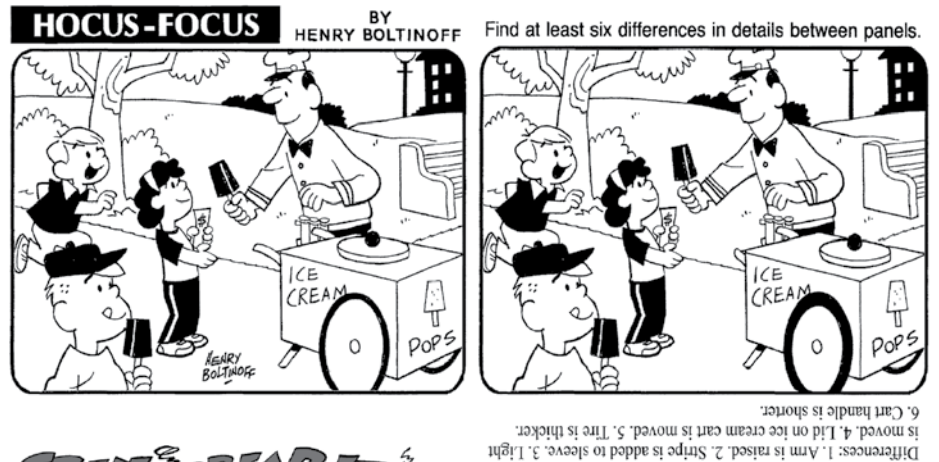
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Out on a Limb



TIGER



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CLUES

ACROSS

- Oven emanation
- Beast of burden
- Slat
- Chocolate substitute
- _____ carte
- San Diego base-
baller
- Actress Linda of
"Dynasty" fame
- Grave acronym
- Dartmouth and such
- *Largest shoulder
muscle
- *"Mind-body exercise
with "apparatus"
- To do this is human
- Hold back or restrain
- *Biathlon gear, sing.
- Rum follower
- Illuminated by a
certain star
- Windshield option
- Gang's domain
- Symbolized by white
dove
- Wander
- "Sesame Street"
regular
- a.k.a. amir
- Nobel Prize, e.g.
- Most luminous star
- 0.001 inches, pl.
- *Workout prep
- Used to be
- Sailor's assent
- Agitate
- Carry a load
- *Series of exercises
with little or no rest
- *Peloton sport
- "Bite the bullet," e.g.
- E in BCE
- Term of endearment
- "He _____ it like it is"
- Actress Ryan
- "M*A*S*H"
character
- One of #18 Across
- 007
- What actors do

DOWN

- Passed with flying
colors
- Five-star review
- Not written
- _____ Carlo
- Soak up
- 36 inches
- Boxer Clay
- Fraternity K
- Surface magma
- Passage into a mine
- **"Arboreal" yoga pose
- Hitler's sidekick Rudolf
- Highway accident
- Extremely angry
- "_____ show time!"
- Nocturnal bird of prey
(2 words)
- It broke the camel's
back
- Plains tribe
- Iron + nickel
- *Use calories
- a.k.a. Indian Lilac
- Vampire of Greek
mythology
- In a cold manner
- To the point
- Four years for a
President
- V
- Premature
- _____ semolina, pl.
- Hawaiian dish
- Trick-taking card game
- List components
- Twilight
- C in NYC
- Brain wave
- Small brook
- Nat of Jazz
- Like as cagey
- _____ European
language
- Like a drink in a snifter
- Swirling vortex
- *One in a set

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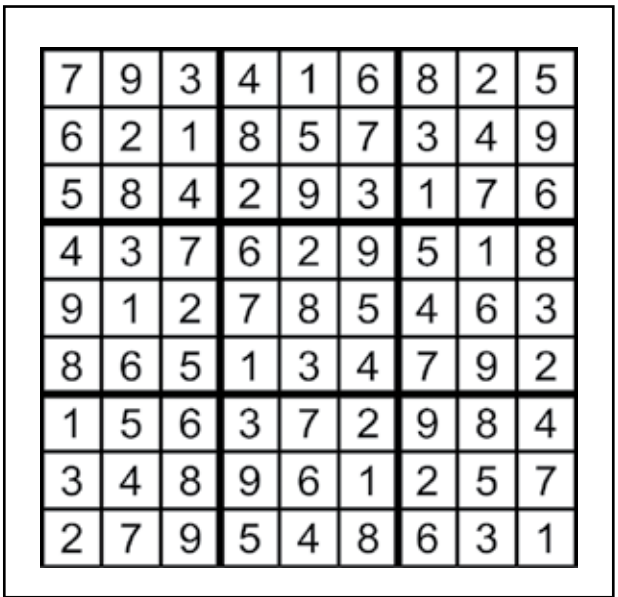
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Explore Lake Oroville

California Department of Water Resources News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - Spend the Day at the Thermalito Forebay. The Thermalito Forebay provides a unique recreation experience compared to other geographic areas of the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. Its relatively stable water elevation level, proximity to City of Oroville amenities, and developed day use facilities provide an experience that is much different from Lake Oroville.

The North Thermalito Forebay boat ramp and day use area covers roughly half of the Forebay’s 630 surface acres and hosts non-motorized boating with a swim beach, a large picnic area with barbecue grills, and abundant shade trees. This area also has restroom facilities, including showers, and drinking fountains.

Also at the North Forebay, the Feather River and Forebay Aquatic Centers promote education, recreation, boating, water safety, competitive water sports, and tourism. The Aquatic Center offers a wide range of rental equipment, from kayaks and canoes, to hydrobikes and pedal boats, which can be rented by the hour or day.

The South Thermalito Forebay day use area has a shaded picnic area with barbecue facilities, a sandy swim beach, and a vault restroom facility. The Forebay shoreline also provides swimming opportunities to beat the heat.

Summer Activity at the Visitor Center

Stop by the Lake Oroville Visitor Center this month and watercolor your summer adventure. All art supplies are provided free of charge – you bring the talent.

Staffed by knowledgeable guides, the Lake Oroville Visitor Center features interpretive



A drone view of Middle Fork and South Fork of the Feather River just north of Bidwell Bar Bridge, at Lake Oroville in Butte County, California. Photo taken March 11, 2025. Photo courtesy California Department of Water Resources

displays on Oroville Dam, area geology, wildlife and habitat, hydroelectric power, and cultural and historical artifacts. View videos in the theater about the construction of Oroville Dam, walk or hike along nearby trails, and visit the 47-foot-tall observation tower that provides unsurpassed panoramic views of surrounding areas. Free guided tours for school and community groups are available by reservation. Parking and admission to the Visitor Center are free.

Explore Loafer Creek

Located along the southern shoreline of Lake Oroville, the Loafer Creek Recreation Area offers several hiking, equestrian, and biking trails that are largely shaded by trees. With current summer temperatures, trails such as the Loafer Creek Day Use (1.7 miles) or Loafer Creek Loop (3.2 miles) offer a shaded respite from the sun. Trails also run along Lake Oroville’s waterline, providing an opportunity to cool off

in the lake after meeting your activity goals for the day.

The Loafer Creek recreation trails can be accessed from the Loafer Point Campground and Day-Use area off Highway 162 (Oro-Quincy Highway), or trail users can connect to Loafer Creek through the Bidwell Canyon Saddle Dam Trail. The trails are open to equestrians and cyclists, but cyclists must stay on paved and dirt roads.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) maintain over 92 miles of trails in the Oroville area. An interactive map of recreation facilities, including open trails and their permitted uses (hike, bike, horse, multi), is available at <https://water.ca.gov/OrovilleRecreation>. A paper trail map is available at various locations, including most entrance kiosks and the Lake Oroville Visitor Center.

Golden Mussel Inspection Program

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is reminding watercraft owners to bring their vessel keys for invasive mussel inspections at the North Thermalito Forebay. Vessels must also have a working battery and be operational to complete and pass the required inspection. More details about the mussel inspection program can be found at water.ca.gov/mussels.

Inspections and decontamination services are available daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the North Thermalito Forebay, located at Garden Drive and HWY 70 in Oroville. For sealed vessel launching, ramp hours at Lake Oroville are from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. at both the Spillway and Bidwell Canyon ramps, with extended hours from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Lime Saddle and Loafer Creek ramps. At Thermalito Afterbay, ramp hours are from 7:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset at Monument

Hill. The Thermalito Forebay, open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., allows non-motorized vessels only at the North Forebay.

Oroville Recreation

Lake Oroville is one of the State Water Project’s premier recreational destinations and one of California’s best fishing spots. The lake provides both warm-water and cold-water fisheries, with excellent bass fishing opportunities during the fall and winter months. Be sure to check CDFW fishing regulations before fishing. The marinas at Bidwell Canyon and Lime Saddle are open daily and provide a variety of services including a convenience store, gas, boat rentals, and more.

Between Jan. 30 and April 20, high flows in the Feather River required the temporary removal of fish monitoring equipment resulting in lower spring-run estimates. Upstream migrating fish totals through the Feather River Fish Monitoring Station from January 1 to July 15 include 17,665 spring-run Chinook salmon (recorded from April 16 to June 30), 282 fall-run Chinook salmon (since July 1), and 185 steelhead. For previous year data, visit CalFish.org.

Current Lake Operations

Lake Oroville is at 859 feet elevation and storage is approximately 2.83 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 83 percent of its total capacity and 116 percent of the historical average.

Feather River flows are at 1,200 cfs through the City of Oroville with 5,800 cfs being released from the Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet (Outlet) for a total Feather River release of 7,000 cfs downstream. DWR continues to assess Feather River releases daily.

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

Multiple Charges Filed in Animal Cruelty Case

Butte County District Attorney’s Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - An Oroville woman appeared in Butte County Superior Court on Monday, July 28, to face 39 counts of animal cruelty after her arrest last week by the Oroville Police Department, who seized 38 living dogs and the body of one puppy from her home.

Brandi Lee Jacobs, 42, and her spouse, Jose Bartolo Martinez Jr., 42, were each charged jointly with 39 felony counts of animal cruelty for failing to provide the dogs in their care with proper food, drink, shelter and protection from the weather, which caused needless suffering.

Jacobs was arraigned on the counts on July 28, assigned a public defender, and ordered back to court for further arraignment and entry of plea on July 31. She was then remanded to the Butte County Jail, where she is being held in lieu of \$585,000 bail.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges arose out of a search of the Martinez and Jacobs residence on Fallbrook Avenue in Oroville by officers of the Oroville Police Department and Oroville Code Enforcement on July 23. The officers were sent to the residence to conduct a welfare check after receiving a complaint about the number of dogs living at the residence and an overwhelming odor of dog feces and urine



emanating from the residence.

At the residence, officers contacted Jacobs and immediately smelled the overwhelming noxious odors emanating from the residence. Inside the residence, the officers noted deplorable living conditions for both the dogs and humans including several

inches of feces on the floors and walls.

Based upon the conditions inside the house and the number of dogs observed, the Northwest Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was dispatched to assist. Officers documented 38 living dogs at the residence. Many of the dogs were confined inside small cages. All of the living dogs appeared to be malnourished and sickly. Many of the dogs had visible skin conditions and signs of severe neglect. Officers also located the body of a deceased puppy in a cage in the couple’s bedroom.

The 38 living dogs were seized by the Northwest SPCA and taken to a local veterinarian for

examination. The veterinarian determined that all were suffering from malnourishment, and some were suffering from various respiratory, skin or urinary infections. However, all 38 dogs are expected to recover.

Both Jacobs and Martinez were arrested on July 24, by Oroville officers based on the initial findings of the Northwest SPCA and the veterinarian. Both were booked into the Butte County Jail, but a paperwork error caused Martinez to be released from jail on July 25, before the case was sent to the District Attorney’s Office. Ramsey said the Oroville police are working on a corrected warrant to get Martinez back in custody. ★

California Sees 13% Reduction in Stolen Vehicles Statewide

From the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

SACRAMENTO - California continues to lead the way out of the COVID-induced crime surge, as the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019.

Of those vehicles stolen, nearly 92% of cars, trucks and SUVs successfully recovered.

“We continue to put the safety of California communities first. Through strategic funding and partnerships with local and state law enforcement partners, we are putting a brake on lawlessness and criminals disrupting our way of life,”

Governor Gavin Newsom said. Of the stolen vehicles in California, nearly 94% cars and 90% personal trucks and SUVs were recovered.

Through expanded regional efforts with the California Highway Patrol and local law

enforcement agencies, Governor Newsom sought to strengthen efforts to fight vehicle theft through crime suppression operations in key areas, including Oakland, Bakersfield and San Bernardino.

These ongoing regional operations have shown positive results throughout the broader communities in Alameda, Kern and San Bernardino counties. Working closely with local law enforcement agencies, auto thieves, repeat offenders and organized crime groups have been disrupted, and their activities have been thwarted.

As a result of these public safety collaborations, each of these counties saw a significant drop in vehicle thefts in 2024. Alameda:



the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019. Image by Dayron Villaverde from Pixabay

down 18% from 2023, Kern: down 28% from 2023 and San Bernardino: down 11% from 2023.

Other notable drops by county in stolen vehicles from 2023 include Imperial: down 13%, Orange: down 16%, Riverside: down 24%, Sacramento: down 23%, San Diego: down 11%, San Francisco: down 17%, Santa Barbara: down 29%, Tulare: down 22% and Yolo: down 24%.

“We are proud to see fewer vehicles being stolen across the

state,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Durjee. “The CHP and our law enforcement partners are working hard every day to stop these crimes, protect California’s communities and hold criminals responsible.”

Automobiles are a vital part of daily life for work, school and family. When a vehicle is stolen, it impacts more than just property—it can take away a person’s freedom and sense of security. View the 2024 report on stolen vehicles and their recoveries at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/siteassets/forms/recruiting/2024-ca-vehicle-theft-facts.pdf>.

Stronger enforcement. Serious penalties. Real consequences.

California has invested \$1.6 billion since 2019 to fight crime,

help local governments hire more police, and improve public safety. In 2023, as part of California’s Public Safety Plan, the governor announced the largest-ever investment to combat organized retail crime in state history, an annual 310% increase in proactive operations targeting organized retail crime, and special operations across the state to fight crime and improve public safety.

Last August, Newsom signed into law the most significant bipartisan legislation to crack down on property crime in modern California history. Building on the state’s robust laws and record public safety funding, these bipartisan bills offer new tools to bolster ongoing efforts to hold criminals accountable for smash-and-grab robberies, property crime, retail theft, and auto burglaries. While California’s crime rate remains near historic lows, these laws help California adapt to evolving criminal tactics to ensure perpetrators are effectively held accountable. ★

Team Beale Conducts Historic U-2 Dragon Lady Flight

By Staff Sgt.
Frederick Brown, 9th
Reconnaissance Wing

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, CA (MPG) - On the evening of July 31, a TU-2S Dragon Lady from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing took off from Beale Air Force Base (AFB) to begin a flight unlike any the U-2 airframe had done before. Seventy years after the very first Lockheed U-2 Dragon Lady’s accidental maiden flight in 1955 by Tony LeVier over Groom Lake, Nevada, the U-2 would finish the longest single flight this platform had ever attempted, flying across all 48 contiguous states of the United States.

An icon of the Cold War, the U-2 continues to provide high altitude intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance operations in support of the U.S. national defense mission, along with key roles in disaster relief and search and rescue missions. Capable of long flights at altitudes above 70,000 feet, the U-2 now pushed itself beyond its known limits.

When the Dragon Lady landed the next day at Beale AFB, it had flown longer than 14 hours and traveled over 6,000 nautical miles, breaking the endurance records for an aircraft of its class.

“This flight is historic, and it is fitting that it was planned and flown by aircrew from the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, America’s longest-serving flying unit,” said Lt. Col. John “JESTER” Mattson, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron (RS) commander. “The character of war is changing, but



A 9th Reconnaissance Wing TU-2S Dragon Lady piloted by Cory “ULTRALORD” Bartholomew, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron (RS) assigned flight safety officer and U-2 instructor pilot, and Lt. Col. “JETHRO”, 1st RS instructor pilot and U-2 chief pilot, lands at Beale Air Force Base (AFB), California, Aug. 1. Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force by Senior Airman Frederick A. Brown

our extreme ownership of our mission to build aircrew ready to exploit and dominate the electromagnetic spectrum and win, will never change. We continue to hone our combat competencies showcasing Beale’s capacity as a power projection platform to rapidly respond to adversary actions anywhere in the world.”

The pilots chosen were Cory “ULTRALORD” Bartholomew, 1st RS assigned flight safety officer and U-2 instructor pilot, and Lt. Col. “JETHRO”, 1st RS instructor pilot and U-2 chief pilot, which also meant this flight had the most U-2 flight experience combined in a single U-2 cockpit. “ULTRALORD” and “JETHRO” hold the records for the highest amount of U-2 flight hours. The flight itself maxed out the operational range of the U-2 and placed the pilots at the edge of their physiological limit.

“11 years ago, I realized just how far we could hypothetically fly the U-2 if we really wanted to push its limits to see just what it could do,” said

“ULTRALORD”. “Now that were on the 70th anniversary of the U-2, 70 years at 70,000 feet, it seemed right to demonstrate the true capability of this aircraft”.

Such flights, however, remain hypothetical without precision mission planning to figure out how to turn it into a reality. Planning and coordinating flight routes, choosing emergency refueling stops, and accounting for factors such as winds, temperatures, altitudes and not

crossing a border into the wrong air space is the realm of mission planners like Stephen “SCOTCH” Johnson.

“I’m proud to be a part of this record flight and put ULTRALORD’s vision into reality”, said Johnson, 1st RS mission planner. “This flight’s length makes it more difficult than usual so there were special challenges to overcome in its planning”.

This flight was also instrumental in improving the 1st RS’s relatively new



U.S. Air Force Col. Keagan McLeese, 9th Reconnaissance Wing commander, coins Cory “ULTRALORD” Bartholomew, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron (RS) assigned flight safety officer, after also coining Lt. Col. “JETHRO”, 1st RS instructor pilot and U-2 chief pilot, after they landed a 9th Reconnaissance Wing TU-2S Dragon Lady at Beale Air Force Base (AFB), California, July 31. Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force by Senior Airman Frederick A. Brown

mission planning software to plan for more complex missions. The software has not been used for a flight this long before, or with so many factors to account for.

Beyond testing the limits of the U-2 or the mission planning software, this historic flight would also pose unique challenges to the many personnel it takes to conduct U-2 operations. Alongside the pilots and mission planner, members of the 9th Physiological Support Group (PSPTS), and the 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) found themselves overcoming and adjusting for the parameters of a record-breaking U-2 flight.

The 9th PSPTS provides the specialized support needed for U-2 pilots to fly at such daunting altitudes, such as maintenance of the high-altitude full pressure suits that protect the pilots. The 9th AMXS maintain the U-2 fleet, providing needed repairs for the aircraft and preparing them for flight, earning them the nickname “Dragon Keepers”.

“We already have to be perfect on every single flight, so with this one it just meant maintaining that standard of excellence,” said Technical Sgt. Christopher Burdi, 9th PSPTS physiological support detachment launch recovery team. “We had to ensure no incidents would occur for a longer flight than ever before, and that required more care, and more resources than usual, but it was nothing we couldn’t handle or continue to. Like I said, we’re already used to performing at a level of perfection.”

That same standard of

excellence also applies to maintenance work by the 9th AMXS. One single mistake could cost the pilot’s life and the aircraft, as special precautions were taken to ensure the expected durability and longevity of the U-2.

In addition to truly showcasing the capabilities of the famed U-2 aircraft, this flight served to honor its 70-year legacy. It paid tribute to all those who had gone before and earned the privilege to be a member of the U-2 community. The Dragon Lady is one of the most difficult planes to fly due to its unique design, requiring a chase car to assist in landing. Just over 1,000 pilots have qualified to fly this aircraft, making it a tight-knit community.

As part of this tribute, the flight also honored fallen U-2 pilots who made the ultimate sacrifice to their country by including specific flight paths over certain states, such as over the homes of families these pilots are remembered by. This was emphasized by “ULTRALORD” after he touched down, noting the U-2 mission is only possible from the team efforts of all those serving today and all those who have come before.

“The incredible thing about this flight is that it shows not only the capabilities of the U-2, but that of our Air Force’s most important asset, it’s people”, said Col. Keagan McLeese, 9th Reconnaissance Wing commander. “Our Airmen demonstrated they are mission-ready in using the skills, adaptability, and innovation it takes to generate global air power.” ★



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ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Primary care visit



Preventive health



Referrals to specialists



Women's wellness visit



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