



New Mural at Biggs Elementary

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SEE INSIDE

Above and Beyond

Meet the Miss Butte County Titleholders



Your 2025 Miss Butte County Scholarship Program Royal Court pictured Left to right: Missette Butte County Paizlee Faulkner, Missette Butte County 1st Runner-Up LilliAnn Pannell, Missette Butte County 2nd Runner-Up River Nichols, Miss Teen Butte County 2nd Runner-Up Emily Danner, Miss Butte County 1st Runner-Up Alina Jackson, Miss Butte County Rajneet Kooner, Miss Teen Butte County Brianna Straws, Miss Teen Butte County 1st Runner-Up Nicolette Tonelli And Butte County Ambassador Sawyer Smith. Photo Courtesy of Teresa Bachellerie.

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Ushering in the 2025 Butte County Fair, the Miss Butte County Scholarship Program Competition was held Thursday, Aug. 21.

Of the talented young women and men that vied for titles only nine would be selected to wear the sash and/or crowns.

This program has long been more than a pageant, but one of opportunity and service for those selected to join its ranks. Titleholders are immediately thrown

into service, sometimes less than 24 hours after their crowning.

Program Director Raina Wright-Reynolds said that "by the end of Sunday, some of our court members have completed up to 21-hours of service."

Raina Wright-Reynolds tells the Gridley Herald that the Friday royalty immediately began putting in service hours at the Peewee animal show for future exhibitors.

"A lot of people are shocked when they realize the time put into

running this program, but I wouldn't have it any other way because of the growth, kindness, generosity and professionalism I see out of every participant I interact with," said Wright-Reynolds.

Members of the MBCSP court could be seen shining throughout the fairgrounds over the weekend, whether assisting with the free Kid Zone crafting or playing interactive games with local children or Peewee livestock show.

The court joined grandstand activities,

lending a hand to help Old Glory shine during the national anthem as they, and other volunteers, unrolled and held a giant American Flag to begin events and getting an escort from the "pretty cars" during the destruction derby.

A substantial amount of time by all titleholders was dedicated to assisting local animal exhibitors during the junior livestock auction and Sale of Champions, held Saturday morning.

Wright-Reynolds shared Continued on page 3

Consultant Contract Approved to Oversee Solar Panel Project

By Shaunna Boyd

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - At the Aug. 20 meeting, the Live Oak City Council considered a contract with JC Nelson Consulting for project management of a solar panel project for the city's wastewater treatment facility.

The city will be receiving \$1.69 million in state grant funding toward the project, and City Manager Benjamin Moody explained that much of the work on that grant and the plans for the solar project were headed by former interim public works director Jeff Nelson. A consultant contract with Nelson would allow the plans to continue without any delays.

Moody said, "We're right at the edge of finalizing the funding agreement" for the grant, so a contact with Nelson is the "most efficient and effective way to move forward."

The proposed consulting contract would not exceed \$80,000, and 75% of the actual cost would be reimbursed through the grant.

"That dollar amount has been budgeted as part of the contract cost for the construction cost for the solar project through this year's budget," Moody said.

Councilmember Nancy Santana asked why the city needed a consultant to work as the project manager, and she suggested that the solar company could handle those responsibilities.

Moody said, "The solar company is going to provide a design, but somebody needs to review the design. Somebody needs to submit the invoice, the reimbursements, to make sure that the funding agreement with the state is in place. And the solar company doesn't do that work. And so, it's really to coordinate with that contractor, be the liaison for the city to manage that contract."

Moody said it takes expertise to handle those tasks on the city's behalf.

Santana remained confused about why the solar contractor couldn't handle those tasks. So, Moody clarified that it's best to have a third party representing the city's interests, in order to hold the solar contractor accountable for providing the services required.

Vice Mayor Aaron Pamma asked about the potential start time for construction on the project.

Moody said the state is Continued on page 4

MANZANITA 4-H DAZZLES AT BCF JUNIOR AUCTION



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TITANS FOOTBALL 8U-14U ROUNDUP



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BIGGS FOOTBALL EYES OPENER



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New Biggs Council Member Sworn In

Story and photo by Susan Meeker

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The City of Biggs is back to having a full council following the appointment of Zach Brown during a special meeting on Aug. 20.

The Biggs City Council officially appointed Brown, the sole qualified candidate to apply for the position, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Brian Bassett in February. Bassett's resignation followed a lengthy period of internal turmoil, high council turnover and a whistleblower complaint against city leaders that turned up mostly unproven allegations.

Brown, a 30-year-old handyman and home maintenance business owner, moved to Biggs over one year ago and believes he will be a good fit for the community.

"I'd like to give back in any way that I can, and I love small towns," Brown said. "At times, I can be a problem solver, so I thought that I would do well here."

The City Council had initially called for a special election on Nov. 4 to fill

the vacancy, with the open nomination process closing on Aug. 8. With no other candidates, the city canceled the scheduled special election, saving the community over \$50,000 in election costs, said Mayor Bo Shepard.

Shepard expressed confidence in the appointment, stating, "Zach Brown is a committed member of our community, and we look forward to his contributions on the council."

City Clerk Roben Benish administered the oath of office to Brown, which affirmed his commitment to support and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State of California, and to faithfully discharge the duties of his new role.

Brown, who is married with two young children, is formerly of Grass Valley and Reno. He moved to Biggs so his children can be closer to their

grandparents and extended family who live in the rural community.

Brown began his tenure immediately, joining council members Jerome Squires and Anita Wilkes, who attended the special meeting to vote on his appointment, and Vice Mayor Doug Arnold, who was absent.

Brown will serve the remainder of Bassett's term, which expires at the end of 2026. ★



Biggs City Clerk Roben Benish administers the oath of office to Zack Brown, who was appointed on Aug. 20 to fill a vacancy on the Biggs City Council.



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The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Fran Peace is organizing a collection for the Butte County Veterans' Memorial in Oroville. If you've never been, you should; it's an amazing memorial of world-class quality. Bill Connelly, the Dean of the Board of Supervisors, has spent thousands of hours making the vet's memorial come to life. Fran loves dogs - she's gathering money to put up a dog statue, honoring all the dogs that served in the military. I can't think of another military working dog memorial anywhere in the country that I've seen. This is a great idea. Acquiring a bronze statue of a working veteran dog for the vets' memorial is expected to cost approximately \$15,000. If you have a love of dogs, especially if one of them saved your life, you can contact Fran to send some money at Peace4k92004@yahoo.com.

Maxine and Randy Hamblin landed a large donation of foodstuffs from the Church Bishop's Storehouse. They delivered

the goods from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the St. Vincent DePaul food cabinet across from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, also known as the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church (if all the Churches are using the extended version of their names. I didn't wanna leave them out) where volunteers will distribute the food to the needy in the coming months. Maxine and Randy have this community service gig as part of their church lay leadership obligation, and they seem to be doing a pretty good job at it. Again, it is wonderful to see people believing in their own things and still, working with people who do stuff differently.

For those of you short on Catechism study hours - St. Vincent de Paul is the patron saint of all works of charity, including charitable societies, hospitals and those in need. St. Vincent; good guy and a good organization.

Gridley FFA elected a new Sentinel - Jack Routon. Jack will learn that Sentinel is the best job. They always put you by the door so you get to meet everyone who comes to the meeting, and you're gonna be the first one to leave - if a fight breaks out, everyone expects you to jump into it and settle down the rowdies. Lots of the best life lessons don't always come by being the President.

The Butte County Library is proposing an amnesty program to bring in criminal types around the community who have outstanding late fees or lost book fees. The identified problem is that some people receive a book and then misplace it; rather than paying their fine, they never return to the library. The Head Librarian hopes to reach out to these individuals, who are living in the shadows, offer them a discounted fine, and reintegrate them into the mainstream of our literate society. If you have been living in a state of Library Book fine shame, your day of liberation may be approaching.

Former North Butte Supervisor Jane Dolan, who invented the agricultural protection line in West Chico, did not even show up to the special meeting to discuss paving over North County agricultural land - sponsored by one Chico City Council member. She still won with only one of the committee members voting to undo the urban boundary - that protects farming and keeps houses out of the flood area. If you can win without showing up and talking, I may adjust my schedule for the next few weeks of meetings.

Josh F.W. Cook is an alumnus of Butte College, America's most outstanding Community College.

Manzanita 4-H Dazzles at BCF Jr. Livestock Auction



Manzanita 4-H primary group members had a blast showing their goat projects at the Butte County Fair. Pictured left to right with their animals: Charlie Elrich and "Shelly", Vivian Chambers and "Calvin", Alonzo Santillan and "Belle", Clary Frazer and "Truffles", Madeline Schohr and "Sage", Beau Branch with "Charlie" and Aiden Schohr with "TJ". Photo provided by Christy Santillan.

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - This year marked a strong showing among the members of the Manzanita 4-H chapter, with winners in multiple competition categories at the Butte County Fair.

Members of Manzanita 4-H received banners that ranged from "beginners' showmanship" to "supreme champion small" and "supreme champion large" animals.

While some members were able to sell in the Butte County Fairs Jr. Livestock Auction held Saturday Aug. 23, others were only allowed to present animals for competition and experience, like the "primary" Manzanita 4-H

group. Children ages 5-8 years old create this group and most chose a goat as their animal this year.

Regardless of their animal or rank within the Manzanita 4-H group, exhibitors had outstanding results at the 2025 Butte County Fair.

The children that placed are as follows.

Alianna Santillan - Senior 4H Pygmy goat showman Champion, Senior 4H Round Robin Champion, Class Winning Market Hog.

Levi Abruzzini - Senior 4H Swine Showmanship Champion, 4th Overall Senior Large Animal Round Robin.

Tessa Abruzzini - Senior 4H Swine Showmanship

Reserve Champion, Reserve Champion 4-H Market Hog.

Martha Roque - Champion Junior 4H Beef Showman, Champion Junior 4H Pygmy goat Showman, Junior 4H Small Animal Round Robin Champion, Junior 4H Large Animal Round Robin, Supreme Champion Pygmy Goat, Reserve Supreme Pygmy Goat.

Julia Lema - Champion Junior 4H Dog Showman, Champion Senior 4H Dog Showman, 3rd place Senior 4H Round Robin.

Jesse Rey Keller - Champion 4-H Beginner Sheep Showmanship, Class Winner Market Lamb.

Antonio Santillan - Class Winning Market Hog. ★

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MEMORIAL

DENNIS MICHAEL HAFFERTY (HAFF) • 03/27/1948 - 08/13/2025

Dennis Michael Hafferty (Haff) passed away suddenly on August 13, 2025. Dennis was born on March 27, 1948, in Gridley, California, to Michael James Hafferty, an immigrant from Ireland, and Jessie Nealon Hafferty of Marysville, California.

Dennis spent his childhood on his parents' ranch in the Manzanita area and helped out at the family's variety store in Gridley. His upbringing instilled in him a deep appreciation for family, friendships, and hard work; values that defined him throughout his life. He was a proud graduate of Gridley High School, where he played on the basketball team, served as editor of the yearbook, and made lifelong friends.

After high school, Dennis began working at Sunsweet in Yuba City, CA. He met the love of his life, Judith (Judy) Anne Johnson during the time that he was employed at Sunsweet. On October 21, 1972, he married his beautiful bride, and in doing so, took on two children, treating and thinking of them as his own. Together, Dennis and Judy built a life full of laughter, travel, and deep devotion to one another.

Dennis went on to work for Recology, where he dedicated over 40 years of service before retiring. Known for his patience, reliability, and strong work ethic, Dennis made a lasting impact on his colleagues and the community he served.

During his leisure time, Dennis enjoyed many diverse activities. He loved fishing and hunting with

his close circle of friends and cherished trips that included poker games, laughter, and outdoor adventures. He was an avid bowler and participated in numerous leagues and teams throughout the years. He was also active in the Fly-Fishing Club and proudly served as president of the Yuba Buttes RV Group alongside his wife Judy. Dennis loved taking his RV on campouts with the group, spending time in nature and enjoying the open road. He and Judy were also members of the Gridley Dance Club, where they shared many joyful evenings on the dance floor. Since 1979, Dennis was a dedicated and well-loved member of the Yuba City Moose Lodge, where he enjoyed spending time with fellow members and dancing with his beloved wife.

Dennis was a lifelong sports enthusiast and an avid supporter of the San Francisco 49ers, San Francisco Giants, and Sacramento Kings. He took great joy in following his favorite teams and never missed a big game. During the glory days of the 49ers, Dennis especially loved hosting Super Bowl parties

at home, where he and Judy welcomed friends and family to share in the excitement, food, and fun.

Dennis lived a full and generous life. He was a patient and caring man, always willing to lend a hand. He raised his children with unconditional love and was a proud grandfather to his granddaughters. His gentle strength and kind heart will be remembered by all who were blessed enough to know him.

Dennis is preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Jessie Hafferty; his in-laws, Mel and Wilma Johnson; and his brother-in-law, James Johnson.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Judith Anne (Johnson) Hafferty; his sisters-in-law Janet Johnson and Sallie Johnson; his daughter Vicki (John) Sage; grandchildren Emily Heise, Elizabeth (Rogelio Vargas) Heise, Christina Sage, and John Sage Jr.; and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A viewing will be held on September 4, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel, 679 Ohio St. Gridley, CA 95948.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 7, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Cooper Avenue Baptist Church, 804 Cooper Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991. A reception will follow at the Yuba City Moose Lodge, 205 S. Walton Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95993.

The family kindly suggests donations in Dennis's memory to the American Heart Association or a charity of your choice.

New Mural at Biggs Elementary Celebrates Inclusion and Kindness



Two children celebrate the brightly colored new mural at the Biggs Elementary School campus. Photo courtesy of Parent Association Working for Students

Parent Association Working for Students News Release

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - A vibrant new mural is turning heads and warming hearts at Biggs Elementary School, spreading a powerful message of inclusion, kindness and community spirit.

The mural, created by talented local artist Joser Rosales, stands as a bright reminder that every student matters, and it all started with an idea from PAWS, the Parent Association Working for Students.

Rosales is an Orlando-based artist. He took their vision and transformed it into something uniquely his own. The result is a beautiful, uplifting work of art that reflects the heart of the school and its values.

"Joser is creative and amazing at what he does," said one Parent Association Working for Students member. "He brought this mural to life in a way that only he could, and it sends such a positive message to everyone who sees it."

Parent Association Working for Students is the local PTA (parent-teacher association) group made

up of a small but mighty team of dedicated parents who volunteer their time and energy to create a supportive and fun environment for every student. They're on campus nearly every day, running the PBIS store that rewards positive behavior, handing out school spirit goodies and organizing events and assemblies for the entire student body.

Beyond student-focused initiatives, Parent Association Working for Students also provides vital support to teachers and staff by helping fund classroom needs, supplies and materials that enhance learning and engagement. Their commitment extends to every corner of campus, making sure both students and educators feel supported and appreciated.

The group's efforts are made possible by their annual fundraiser, Run Around the Rice, which fuels all Parent Association Working for Students-sponsored activities, from schoolwide events to classroom support. The fundraiser plays a key role in supplying both students and teachers with

the materials they need to succeed.

Importantly, Parent Association Working for Students is also backed by the full support of Biggs Elementary's principals, who champion the group's efforts and share in the mission to create a positive, inclusive school culture. Their encouragement and collaboration help make Parent Association Working for Students initiatives even more impactful.

"We'd love to welcome new members who want to be part of creating a positive school experience for every child" a Parent Association Working for Students volunteer said. "We're a fun, enthusiastic group who love planning and making things happen for our school. In a small town like Biggs, that sense of community really matters, and we're proud to help build it every day."

The mural now stands as a lasting symbol of that commitment: a celebration of inclusion, kindness and the small-town love that makes Biggs Elementary School a special place to learn and grow. ★



Orlando-based artist, Joser Rosales, brings positive concepts to life in the new Biggs Elementary School mural. Photo courtesy of Parent Association Working for Students

Above and Beyond



Members of the Miss Butte County Royal Court immediately start their service duties helping at the fairgrounds. Here they assist a Grange Reserve Champion banner winner member hold their swag after competition for a photo op. Photo by Raina Wright-Reynolds.

Continued from page 1 that titleholders helped 4-H exhibitors serve food and water to the buyers, spent several hours running buyer numbers for FFA students to buyers and even hold winning banners and buckles for champion exhibitors.

Throughout their year of service, the MBCSP titleholders are only required to accrue 10-15 hours of community service hours but are often more dedicated and choose to attend anywhere from 35-50 events as representatives according to Wright-Reynolds.

Ambassador Sawyer Smith went as far to start his own community service project, "Puppy Love," collecting a truckload of donations that went to the Butte Human Society.

"One of my greatest prides in this program is that, beyond a small commitment requirement, our court sets their own schedule." Says Wright Reynolds. "Despite this, time and again, they



Before the grandstand events, the Miss Butte County Royal Court and other volunteers helped carry and unfurl a giant American flag in the arena, as seen in this picture. Courtesy photo

choose to go above and beyond that call to serve. These Kids don't show up to events 'because they have to', they show

up because they want to. Whether they realize it yet or not, they carry a true passion and calling for service above self." ★

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Let a financial advisor help plan for life's curveballs

No matter what stage of your life you're in — caring for children, working toward retirement or planning your legacy — unforeseen events like a job loss, a major illness or even a stock market drop could derail what you're working so hard to achieve financially.

With your future at stake, you may want to get guidance from a financial professional who can develop a personalized financial strategy to help you navigate life's curveballs.

Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

- **Create a customized long-term strategy.** This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals — your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.
- **Set realistic expectations.** Successful investing requires discipline and patience — most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized strategy in place.

- **Diversify your investments.** The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting "all your eggs in one basket." Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation doesn't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

- **Keep a long-term outlook.** It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage — your financial advisor can show you how.

- **Keep your emergency savings well-funded.** This is your "rainy day" fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income, and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Butte College Named One of the Nation's Top Community Colleges

Butte College News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - As classes get underway this fall, Butte College is being recognized as one of the top community colleges in California and across the nation. WalletHub ranked Butte College 14th among California's 116 community colleges and 55th out of more than 650 community colleges nationwide.

WalletHub's annual ranking evaluates colleges on 18 key indicators of cost and quality, including in-state tuition and fees, graduation rates and student-faculty ratios. These measures highlight the value and quality education that Butte College offers.

"Affordability, strong academic programs, and a supportive learning environment are at the heart of what we do," said Butte College Superintendent/President Virginia Guleff. "This recognition reflects the hard work of our faculty, staff, and students who make Butte College a place where students thrive."

With small class sizes, dedicated instructors, and more than 200 degree and certificate programs, Butte College continues to provide accessible pathways for students to transfer to universities, start careers, or build new skills.

Learn more about our programs and opportunities at butte.edu. ★



WalletHub's annual ranking evaluates colleges on 18 key indicators of cost and quality. Photo courtesy of Butte College

Butte College to Break Ground on Chico Center Expansion

Butte College News Release

CHICO, CA (MPG) - Butte College will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of its Chico Center on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 3 p.m. The project will add two new buildings totaling 23,972 square feet, expanding programs and opportunities for students in Chico and the surrounding communities.

The first building, an 18,100-square-foot cosmetology and barbering facility, will relocate the college's cosmetology program into a state-of-the-art, Field Act-compliant facility. The

new space will feature two cosmetology labs, one barbering lab, one esthetician lab, one manicure/pedicure lab, one classroom and eight faculty offices.

This expansion will increase capacity from 60 to 150 students annually and introduce new barbering, manicuring and esthetician programs to meet industry demand. Relocating these programs to the Chico Center will also give cosmetology and barbering students direct access to the full range of student services available on site, including counseling, tutoring and financial aid support, without the need to travel across town.



Construction on the science facility will begin in January 2026. Photo courtesy of Butte College

Construction for the Cosmetology and Barbering building will begin in September 2025 and is scheduled for completion in December 2026,

with classes starting in January 2027.

The second building, a 5,872-square-foot science laboratory, will include one 34-student general science lab, one science stockroom and four faculty offices.

This expansion will allow Butte College to better serve students in Chico by offering science classes locally, reducing travel barriers and providing greater access to STEM education.

Construction on the

science facility will begin in January 2026, with completion planned for March 2027 and classes starting in fall 2027.

The construction contract was awarded to DH Slater & Son of Chico for \$22,574,869, with 48% local subcontractor and vendor participation. The total project budget is \$27.2 million, funded through district capital funds.

Butte College's Chico Center is located at 2320 Forest Avenue in Chico. ★



Pictured is a rendering of what the new Cosmetology and Barbering building will look like. Photo courtesy of Butte College

Consultant Contract Approved to Oversee Solar Panel Project

Continued from page 1
in the process of finalizing the funding agreement, and he hopes to bring it to council by October. After officially awarding the construction contract, the solar company could begin in October or November, weather allowing, or by next spring. Total construction is expected to take at least three to four months.

Mayor Jeramy Chapdelaine said that Nelson was the signatory and city representative for the grant application, so changing the project management at this point could cause delays or even jeopardize the funding.

Councilmember Bob Woten agreed that it's best to maintain continuity on such an important project: "I think we need to have someone in there that's knowledgeable about what's going on to make sure we get the best bang for our buck."

The council approved the consultant contract 4-0, with Councilmember Ashley Hernandez absent.

Next, the council considered writing off past-due water and sewer accounts to be sent to collection.

The city undertakes this process quarterly to recoup a portion of the losses from past-due tenant accounts. For this quarter, the past-due amounts from both funds totaled \$3,432.

City Manager Moody explained that the city only receives a discounted portion of the funding through the collection process. In contrast, the city



annually sends past-due property owner notices to the county for collection through the property tax roll, and through that process the city does recover their costs.

The water and sewer funds combined lose approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 each year to past-due tenant accounts, said Moody. Looking at previous quarters, there are some properties that consistently have tenants with past due accounts.

"Different name, same address," said Moody. "You see these properties that are allowing bad tenants, and that's really subsidized by the rest of the utility users."

Moody suggested a possible code amendment that would shift the ultimate financial responsibility to the property owners. Both to the tenants and the property owners would receive the past-due notices. The council could also consider increasing the minimum deposit for service, so more of

the losses would be covered in the case of non-payment.

Vice Mayor Pamma said he doesn't think it's fair for the property owners to have financial responsibility for their tenant's past-due accounts. He would prefer a larger deposit for tenants, to ensure there is something to cover the city's losses.

Councilmember Woten said the landlords are doing this as a business and making a profit. If they had the responsibility to cover nonpayment, "they might be more selective in their tenants, which is beneficial for all of us."

"I don't see why the city should be supplementing these property owners who cannot manage their property and get tenants in there that can pay their bills." Woten said the city and the other ratepayers "shouldn't be paying these bills."

Mayor Chapdelaine recommended that Moody bring back various options at a future

meeting for a full council discussion.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the write off of current past-due water and sewer accounts.

Finance Director James Ramsey submitted a report on the water fund advance, in which council approved a loan to bring the water fund cash deficit to zero.

Ramsey said when the council approved the loan in March, the projected water fund deficit was \$3.5 million. At this time, the actual deficit is \$3.1 million. So that total amount will be transferred from the water, sewer, and drainage connection fee funds.

The loan amount will be paid back to those funds beginning in 2029-2030, when the city expects the water fund to have sufficient funds for repayment over a five-year period. Interest will be accrued over the full 10 years of the loan, with a rate adjusted each year based on the city's rate of investment return (with a cap at 5% interest). The interest rate charged for this year will be 3.71%. Projecting from the current interest rate, Ramsey estimated there will be \$747,000 accrued in interest over the life of the loan, but the actual amount will depend on the yearly interest charged.

Mayor Chapdelaine said, "We're just investing in ourselves, so it stays within the city."

The next meeting of the Live Oak City Council is scheduled for Sept. 3. ★

Candy Cane Lane Rehearsals Begin

Gridley Christian Church News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Christian Church invites kids four years old through eighth grade to sing in our Kids Choir Christmas musical "Candy Cane Lane". Rehearsals are on Tuesdays beginning, Sept. 2 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Performance date is Dec. 7. Costumes, lights, drama, simple choreography and singing are all a part of this fun soul-searching musical.

Candy Cane Lane leads our characters Marsha, Mark, and Mandy-through the Soul Food Forest to Miss Ginger's gingerbread house to learn the recipe for life. They even go on a ride on Casey's train to learn how to grow. "Candy Cane Lane" is a children's musical that teaches us the truth that God alone can satisfy our hungry hearts.

Participation in this musical is free. Each family will be given one free copy of the musical. Vocal warm-ups, snacks, Bible lessons, and a sign language memory verse will also be a part of our time together. Speaking parts and solos will be given to those who want them. Watch as your child grows in confidence as he/she teams up with others to sing and act for Jesus.

Gridley Christian Church is located at 580 Washington Street and is a place where everyone is family. Call Bonnie at 530-933-9845 to register your child. ★

Ghosts of Kentucky Street

By John Raspanti

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Seventy-some years ago, there was much to see while strolling on busy Kentucky Street in downtown Gridley.

The Snack Shop, specializing in hamburgers, and the Greyhound Depot shared a spot at 670 Kentucky. A trip to San Francisco would hardly break the bank. It cost three dollars and some change. A return trip was even less.

The hamburgers at The Snack Shop were tasty, and the establishment was open seven days a week. Gridley resident Ike Murshel, who resided on Sycamore Street, ran both businesses.

Next door was the snazzy Butte Theater.

Built in 1938, with an imposing tower and marquee, the theater's style was Art Deco. An octagonal ticket booth stood at the center of the sloping entrance. On the other side of the theater was a resale store that proudly advertised its acceptance of old heaters as trade-ins.

Up the street, at the corner of Kentucky and Hazel, stood a building formerly occupied by the Gridley State Bank. In 1960, Clarice Duke's fashions inhabited the location. The Gridley Museum settled into the property several years ago.

A red brick building occupied the other side of Kentucky and Hazel. Called Hall's General Store, W. H. Hill ran the successful store for years, surviving break-ins and a fire until his retirement.

Morgan T. Little operated his grocery store at 559 Kentucky. Essentials like frozen foods, cold meats, vegetables and ice cream filled Little's store. He ran the place until 1954.

Fancy a haircut? Mere steps from Little's was Milt's Barbershop, where one would "shine" after visiting.



The Gridley Museum at the corner of Kentucky St and Hazel St. Photo by Teri Saya

A jewel of a building sits at 519 Kentucky.

Designed in a Greek Revival style by Chico resident Chester Cole, with 12 steps to a grand entrance, the striking Carnegie Public Library of Gridley opened for the first time on March 15, 1916, at 3:30 p.m.

Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie had donated \$7,000 for construction, but the driving force behind the development of the library was the Ladies Improvement Club.

The Ladies Club worked nine grueling years until Carnegie authorized construction in 1915.

The imposing library would serve the community for 67 years. It still stands proudly to this day, a classic from another time.

Halls General Store is now home to the Farmers Wives, the Carnegie Library to Taylor Accountancy. Most of the other buildings are barren now, but the past lingers for those who remember it and are looking for it. ★

Foodmaxx Killer Sentenced to Two Life Terms

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Friday, Aug. 15, a Butte County Superior Court Judge sentenced Timothy Wayne Wiechert, 51, of Chico, to serve 32 years to life plus four years in state prison.

Butte County Superior Court Judge Kristen Lucena handed down a sentence of 25 years to life for the March 2023 murder of Daniel Niles Sr, 61, and seven years to life for the March 2023 attempted murder of a Chico area homeless woman. The court also sentenced Wiechert to an additional one year for using a deadly weapon to commit the murder and three additional years for causing a 2022 fire outside the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

In July of this year, a Butte County jury found Wiechert guilty of first-degree murder with the use of a deadly weapon and attempted murder after a 3-week jury trial. As a result of the verdicts, Judge Lucena also found Wiechert had violated his probation for the 2022 fire.

The case gained notoriety because, after killing Niles, Wiechert wrapped Niles' body in a tarp, stuffed the body into a shopping cart, and wheeled the body into the Chico FoodMaxx grocery store, where it was left. Before the body was found, Wiechert attempted to strangle to death a Chico homeless woman but was thwarted by good Samaritans and the quick response of the Chico



Police Department.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Wiechert submitted lengthy oral and written statements to the court before the sentencing. Wiechert continued to deny responsibility for his crimes and expressed no remorse. Instead, Wiechert criticized the jury, the court, the witnesses and the prosecutor and claimed he was persecuted for being homeless.

On the back of his jail coveralls in court today, Wiechert had drawn a target over the word "homeless."

Numerous members of Niles' family submitted letters to the judge prior to the sentencing hearing, and two members of the family spoke during the hearing. They remembered him as a kind and caring person who, despite suffering some bad breaks in his life, including losing his home and all his possessions in the Camp Fire, was always willing to help anyone in need.

The trial prosecutor, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Marc Noel, told the judge that it was this willingness to help others that led to Niles' death: "On a cold rainy night in March, Daniel offered Wiechert a ride and Wiechert murdered him as a result."

In support of giving Wiechert the longest possible prison sentence allowed under California law, Judge Lucena cited Wiechert's long criminal history, that included seven prior felony convictions and 20 misdemeanor convictions in multiple states, as well as Wiechert's complete refusal to take any responsibility for his actions and refusal to take advantage of any of the resources and assistance offered to him by the Butte County Probation Department, Butte County Behavioral Health, the Chico Police Department and various agencies dedicated to assisting the homeless in the Chico area.

The court also noted that at the time he committed the murder and attempted murder, Wiechert was on felony probation for causing a fire at the base of a tree outside the Butte County Sheriff's Office after being released from the Butte County Jail in August of 2022.

Ramsey said, "Wiechert is a poster child for the term 'service resistant.' He was offered assistance with his drug problem. He was offered mental health services. He was offered housing and financial assistance. He refused all assistance, always claiming that he was not the problem and blaming everyone else."

Ramsey continued, "Unfortunately, an innocent man lost his life as a result of Wiechert's bad decisions and refusal to accept any responsibility, and now that man's family is suffering the consequences." ★

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Sutter County



For those who develop severe West Nile Virus illness, symptoms may last several weeks, and some symptoms may be permanent. Photo by Buchse12 via Pixabay

Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector Control District News Release

YUBA-SUTTER, CA (MPG)

- Sutter County Public Health has confirmed the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Sutter County this year. This is the 15th human confirmed case of West Nile Virus in California for 2025. West Nile Virus is generally active June through October.

People infected with WNV fall into three categories: No symptoms/asymptomatic (8 in 10 people), Mild to moderate fever illness with fatigue and body aches (1 in 5 people), Severe illness with neurologic symptoms such as encephalitis or meningitis (less than 1 in 150 people).

For those who develop severe West Nile Virus illness, symptoms may last several weeks, and some symptoms may be permanent. There is an increased risk of West Nile virus throughout Sutter County.

"We continue to see increased virus activity and detections in our surveillance system. The risk for human infection is elevated," said Stephen Abshier, District Manager. "Residents need to remain vigilant in protecting themselves from being bitten by mosquitoes."

inspect their yards for anything holding water. Regular landscape irrigation or unseasonable rain can provide mosquitoes with good breeding habitat. Simply draining or dumping water will prevent new mosquito breeding. The best way to prevent West Nile virus infection is to avoid mosquito bites.

Remember the three D's as noted below.

DEET - Use a proven insect repellent like DEET. Other recommended repellents include: picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, IR3535 or 2-undecanone. Always use repellent according to label instructions. DEET is safe for use on children when used as directed.

DAWN AND DUSK - Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile Virus bite in the early morning and evening. Wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

"Be especially mindful during dawn and dusk when mosquito activity is especially high; and drain all standing water," said Bi-County Public Health Officer, Dr. Phuong Luu. "West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans and

animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds."

DRAIN - Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate or drain all sources of standing water on your property, including flowerpots, car tires, rain gutters, and pet bowls. For standing water that cannot be drained such as fountains, ponds, etc., consider adding "Mosquito Dunks" or mosquito fish, which feed on mosquito larvae.

In response to recent findings and increased virus activity, District staff will continue to trap mosquitoes for testing, continue our disease surveillance program, and treat areas of high West Nile Virus activity with truck mounted foggers to reduce the adult mosquito population. Spray areas can be viewed at the District's website at <https://sutter-yubamvcd.org/>. A surveillance map can be found there as well, which shows the location of West Nile Virus positive dead birds, mosquito collections, and sentinel chickens.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit: westnile.ca.gov or contact: Sutter County Public Health at 530-822-7215 or E-mail: docsup@co.sutter.ca.us. ★

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Couple Charged with Abuse Against Children and Animals

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A Chico couple was in Butte County Superior Court Aug. 18 and arraigned for child and animal abuse.

David Allen Petterson, 39, and Felicia Louise Whitrock-Wyatt, 37, were each arraigned on counts of child abuse and animal abuse. At the request of the Butte County District Attorney's Office, both were held in custody with bail set at \$65,000.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the couple's two non-verbal special-needs children, ages 8 and 10, are named as the victims of the child abuse. The Chico Police were called to the couple's Glacier Peak Lane home to do an animal welfare check based on complaints from the neighborhood. Officers found the home to be extraordinarily dirty, with feces and cat litter on the floor in most rooms. The house reeked of urine and feces such that responding officers had a difficult time breathing while in the home.

Ramsey said 37 animals were reportedly removed from the home – 32 cats and kittens, three dogs and two dead cats. Many of the animals were malnourished and unhealthy. Bowls for water were found in the home, but they were empty.

Ramsey said Petterson and Whitrock-Wyatt were charged with the same crimes

in 2023 in the same home. In July 2023, the home was also found in a deplorable condition and infested with cockroaches. Officers removed a total of 47 live animals, including 20 birds, nine dogs and five guinea pigs. They also removed dirty crates and iguana tanks with bearded dragon lizards. By the time the case was filed in September 2023, Butte County Children's Services Division determined the home was habitable and the children were allowed to move back in with their parents.

Petterson pleaded no contest to both abuse counts and was sentenced to a term of probation on April 17, 2024. However, on May 15, a judge, based on favorable probation reports, modified Petterson's previous probation condition to not possess animals, allowing the couple to again own animals. The original probation term required that Petterson not own or possess animals for ten years after his conviction.

Whitrock-Wyatt was found suitable to participate in a mental health diversion program on Feb. 21, 2024, and had reportedly been participating satisfactorily in the program ever since.

Petterson and Whitrock-Wyatt are due back in court on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 8:30 a.m. for the appearance of defense counsel and further arraignment. Petterson also faces a violation of probation hearing, and Whitrock-Wyatt a termination of diversion hearing at the same time. ★



What happens if you if you get eaten by a shark?

– Prince, Georgia

Dear Prince,

When I was a kitten, I saw a movie about shark attacks. It made me nervous to go into the water.

I talked about that with my friend Nora Hickey. She's a fish veterinarian at Washington State University.

She told me that sharks don't eat people.

Many sharks can't even bite. They have mouths adapted to sift sand or slurp up plankton.

Sharks that can bite don't hunt humans. They eat prey with a thick fat layer like seals and sea lions.

Musely animals like birds, cats and people seem to taste bad to sharks.

"Even if they bit you, they probably wouldn't like it," Hickey said. "They'd probably be like, 'Uh, no thank you.'"

Shark attacks are usually a mistake—or a shark trying to defend itself.

Sharks have powerful senses. They can detect tiny smells from about a quarter mile away. And they can hear for miles. Like other fish, they have sensitive cells all along their bodies. They also have tiny pores on their snouts that pick up electrical signals in the water.

So, a shark might sense something splashing in the water and come check it out. It might think the splasher is prey and take a nibble.

Then, a few things happen.

Some sharks roll back their eyes when they bite. Sometimes a protective membrane slides over the eyeball. That keeps their eyes safe if the prey fight backs.

Sharks can't chew up and down like we do. So, it might shake its head back and forth to tear off a bite.

Some of the shark's teeth may pop out. They have rows and rows of teeth. When a

tooth falls out, a new one moves up to take its place. Hickey told me that happens so often that the ocean floor is littered with shark teeth.

At this point, the shark will probably realize you're a gross human. They'll likely swim away.

But if you magically got fully swallowed, or if some piece of you did, you'd be in for a weird journey through the shark's guts.

"Sharks and sturgeons have a spiral valve intestine," Hickey said. "It's a way to increase the digestive surface area of the intestine without increasing the length of the intestine. Basically, you'd be going through a spiral like a water slide."

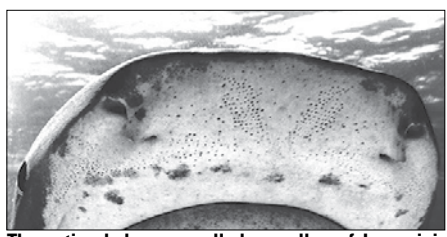
A shark might also attack if humans provoke it or threaten its home.

Humans are way more dangerous to sharks than sharks are. People hunt sharks—or accidentally catch them in nets. That's really bad for sharks that are ram ventilators. They can't push water over their gills on their own. If they can't swim, they can't breathe.

People drive loud boats or subs into a shark's territory. Swimmers and divers may flail around in ways that seem threatening. Sometimes people try to interact with wild sharks, especially species we know to be gentle.

It turns out humans can be pretty scary. And those jaw-some, toothy fish are a bit misunderstood.

Sincerely,
Dr. Universe



These tiny holes are called ampullae of Lorenzini. They're filled with a snot-like jelly. They detect electrical signals that travel through salt water. It helps sharks find living things like mollusks buried in the sand. Image Albert kok CC BY 3.0



Central Valley Farmer Harvests a Promising Fig Crop

California fig lovers are in for a treat this summer. Cooler temperatures in the Central Valley have created favorable conditions for producing fresh figs. "It's been a wonderful growing season," Steve Schafer, who grows figs and other crops in Madera County, told Ag Alert® this month in a field report. In extreme heat, figs can be "ready to pick in the morning and start getting soft by afternoon," he said. But this summer, milder weather has led to a "great quality" crop with a longer shelf life, said Schafer, who sells his figs as fresh whole fruit. The higher-quality crop has allowed Schafer to reject fewer pieces of blemished fruit than last year. The farmer reported a strong market for the delicate fruit. While prices for fresh figs can fluctuate from week to week, he said, "demand is good."

Golden Mussels Complicate Effort to Meet 'Huge' Recreational Fishing Demand

Tehama County fish farmer Katie Harris uses this time of year to rebuild her fish inventory ahead of stocking season in October, when she will supply lakes and other recreational fishing programs with trout. "The demand for recreational fishing has been huge," Harris told Ag Alert® this month in a field report, adding she has had "a hard time keeping up with demand." That's partly due to longstanding challenges such as water rights and costs. But Harris and other California fish farmers also face a newer threat in the emergence of golden mussels, which can devastate fish farms and infrastructure. "Anywhere water moves, this invasive species can move with it," Harris said. She added she has taken proactive biosecurity measures to protect her farm.

Agricultural Education Program Reaches More Than 1 Million California Students

In 2024, more than 1 million students and 34,000 teachers benefited from the California Farm Bureau's innovative agricultural education program, which is run by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Launched in 1981, the program promotes agricultural literacy and awareness. "Our whole mission is to support teachers and students in incorporating agriculture into their classroom because agriculture affects our daily lives," said Amanda Fletcher, the foundation's executive director. "It's the food we eat; it's the clothes we wear. It affects everything that we do." Agriculture in the Classroom strives to keep growing, Fletcher said, especially in urban and disadvantaged schools that may have fewer opportunities to learn about food and farming.

Wolf Resurgence Continues to Impact California Ranchers and Rural Communities

The migration of gray wolves into the Sierra Valley in Northern California has disrupted rural communities and led to significant losses for cattle ranchers. "We started having wolf attacks on cattle on the north end of our Sierra Valley," Sierra County Sheriff Mike Fisher said during an interview in a recent episode of the Voice of California Agriculture podcast, which is produced by the California Farm Bureau. Fisher spoke with host Gary Sack about challenges such as confirming how many cattle kills were caused by wolves, as well as the economic and emotional stress ranchers have faced. Because of the growing population of wolves, "I suspect that we are going to see some of the ranchers in this valley next year not return," the sheriff said. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott


The Butte County came and went. It was HOT. My friend Ruben and I had a good time cleaning up, trimming, and wiring our Bonsai trees. As usual people love the Bonsai trees. Ruben is a fantastic artist and very skilled with horticulture to boot. His wonderful trees always impress. My trees are wonderful to me and people

are kind but his always get the most comments and questions. He has a dwarf peach that has peaches on it this year. I get the credit in that it is a baby from my decorative dwarf peach in the ground in my yard. That little tree with little peaches is magical.

I think that one reason I'm not seeing more toad poops is the ants are doing their job and cleaning some up. I see remnants that I think are poops but they look weird. I finally saw some the ants were working on in the cool of early morning. Sometimes we get so annoyed by ants we forget their essential purpose is cleaning things up all of the time. We'd be knee deep in weird bug skeletons, feces, and who

knows what else without them.

I'm hoping to start fall vegetables from seed. My husband likes to go shopping for vegetable plants. Sadly, he doesn't think about it when they are out. Like now. It is hot and seems counterintuitive to be planting fall and winter crops now. If you start your seeds now in a mostly shady, but bright light place you could have plants ready to go in the ground by the end of September. The other thing about seeds, he is convinced that if he plants seeds the bugs will eat everything. In the spring this is so true when your plants are the first and freshest thing around. The earwigs and sowbugs will feast. ★



Fun Facts About Your Local Fire Department

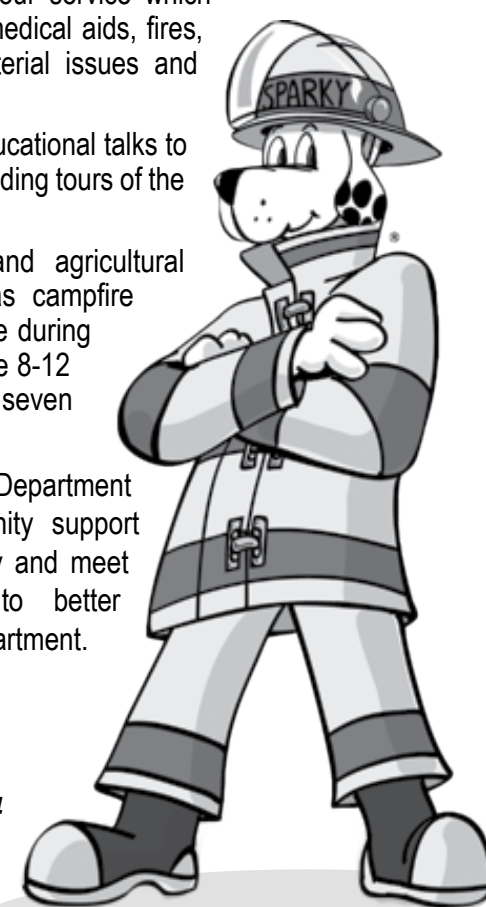
Sparky and his friends at the firehouse would like to inform you of some fun facts about your CAL FIRE/Gridley Fire Department.

- The City of Gridley contracts its fire protection with CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department.
- Station 74 here in Gridley runs upwards of 1500 emergency calls per year.
- There is a minimum of four highly trained firefighters living at the station for their 72 hour shift.
- We operate multiple fire engines, water rescue equipment, and a 110 foot aerial ladder truck.
- We currently have a 12 member volunteer fire company comprised of local community members.
- There is no charge for our service which includes responding to medical aids, fires, rescues, hazardous material issues and much more!
- We are happy to give educational talks to local school children including tours of the firehouse!
- We issue residential and agricultural burn permits as well as campfire permits all free of charge during business hours which are 8-12 and 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm seven days a week.

CAL FIRE/Gridley Fire Department appreciates your community support and invites you to stop by and meet your local firefighters to better understand YOUR fire department.

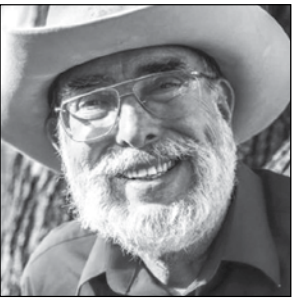
Thank You, and Be Safe!!

**Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74**



Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY

We live in an age of small miracles



Slim Randles

is that almost everything with teeth wants to eat you, and if you can't fly, there's not much you can do about it. We learned that picking the baby up and putting him back in the nest wouldn't work, so we were forced to just watch his timid movements around the yard and whisper to him, "I'm sorry, pal."

You might think that the older we get, the tougher our shells become to these little natural tragedies, but it doesn't seem to work that way. Maybe it's because we've now had children of our own, and grandchildren, too. Maybe that's why it actually hurts more to see a helpless baby bird today than when we were 11 and riding our bikes on the river trails. Back then we were bulletproof, flexible, and immortal. But we learned things over

the years. We saw people our age die. We saw younger people die. We accumulated our own little collection of personal tragedies.

Then the baby found the drain spout. Yep, that little rascal hopped into the drain spout coming off the roof and had sense enough to stay in there, coming to the edge of his "cave" only for meals from his anxious mother. A week later, I thought I recognized him sitting on a tree branch, looking smug. He wasn't in the drain spout and I didn't see any feathers around on the ground.

We live in an age of small miracles.

If you find an injured bird, you can always call or email the experts here at injuredbird@nyc-birdalliance.org. NYC birds tend to fly into glass windows, I'm told. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Does anyone remember the First playoff game in Sacramento after a 16-year drought, just three years ago? I certainly do, and it's something I'll never forget.

Tickets were almost impossible to come by, and the electricity both in and out of the arena that night was something that Kings fans will long remember.

There was something special about that team, and one of the things that made that team so memorable was the incredible scoring power they displayed all season long.

The starting lineup of Harrison Barnes, DeAaron Fox, Keegan Murray, Kevin Huerter, and Domantas Sabonis, led the NBA in scoring for the entire season, an achievement never accomplished before in Sacramento Kings history.

I thought it might be interesting to examine what the starting five averaged that season and compare it with the potential scoring we can expect from the starting five today.

The combined total of the starting five for the Sacramento Kings for the 2022/2023 season was 83.8 points per game. The Kings led the league in scoring that season with a total of 120.7 points per game, meaning the bench contributed 36.9 points on average every game.

So, how does that stack up against the likely starting five we have going into the 2025/2026 season?

The Starting five of Keegan Murray, Dennis Schroder, Domantas Sabonis, Zach Lavine, and Demar DeRozan, scored a combined total of 86.9 points per game individually during the 2024/2025 campaign, and the team averaged 115.7 point per game.

That means the Sacramento Kings bench contributed 28.8 points every night last season.

Everyone is talking about the meteoric rise of the now world champion Oklahoma City Thunder, but what did their starting five average every game last season. Surprisingly, it was 77.6 which was just over 9 points per game less than the Sacramento Kings. What made the Thunder the hurricane that they were was torrid bench production that contributed 42.9 points per game!

GM's all over the league are trying to emulate the Thunders success, and is it any wonder?

The question for the Sacramento Kings

may not rest in the scoring of their starting lineup, but rather from the scoring punch they can expect from their bench.

After Malik Monk and Keon Ellis, where the scoring will be coming from is somewhat of a conundrum.

There are question marks up and down the lineup, but without question, Kings fans should be looking at the glass half full as it relates to the bench.

Youngsters like Isaac Jones, first round draft choice Nique Clifford, and Devin Carter are likely to increase last year's bench production from 28.7 and try to replicate the 36.9 production of 3 seasons ago.

Largely ignored has been 3-point specialist Doug McDerott who was signed again for the upcoming season, but has been abysmally used in the past, and I believe has much to offer off the bench.

Players only perform when they're on the floor, and it takes expert coaching to place the right players on the floor at the right time. More than that is developing a regimen that each player can expect as it relates to playing time, and if these players are going to mature and be vital components, they need to know they will be called upon every game, and not just at the whim of the coach at garbage time.

Yes, the stats for the starting five match up favorably for the Kings, but it's well known that the Oklahoma City Thunder made their reputation playing frenetic defense, and without a doubt this is an area that the Kings will need to improve.

I look for Keon Ellis to continue his rise to prominence with defense as his mantra, and I was impressed with the growth in Keegan Murray last season as well.

Playing great defense is contagious, and if coach Christie can infuse an embryotic passion for playing defense night in and night out, I believe the wins will come.

Still, this lineup is not cast in stone, as we continue to hear rumblings of possible transactions, so for Kings fans it has to be patience once again while new GM Scott Perry continues to turn over every rock, hoping to find that last piece of the puzzle.

I'm optimistic and I hope you are too!

Stay tuned for more to come.

All the best!

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

Dave Ramsey Says

What Comes First?

been, and put the rest toward debt, you can have that student loan and credit card debt knocked out in just a year or so.

But I want you to pay close attention to what I'm about to say next. Just because you're making more money doesn't mean you should start buying a bunch of toys or pick up a car payment. Sit down together now—don't wait—and practice making a written monthly budget based on your new income. Give every dollar a name before you spend it, and don't forget to work the debt snowball, too. List your debts from smallest to largest, make minimum payments on the largest, and then attack that credit card debt with a vengeance.

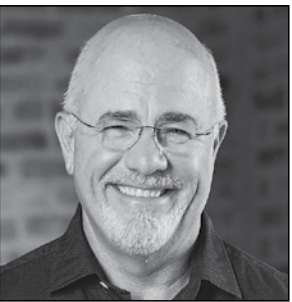
Chances are you can get the credit card debt tak-

en care of in two or three months. Then, roll the money from that payment over, and apply it and any other cash you can scrape up toward the student loan debt.

With just a little more work, you folks are going to find yourselves in a really great place soon!

— Dave

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



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I'm a non-traditional student in my last semester of college. In May, I'll graduate with a degree in elementary education and have a job waiting for me. It will bring our household income up to a little over \$100,000. We're already living on a budget, but the problem is we'll have \$15,000 in student loan debt to repay, plus \$5,000 in credit card debt. What should we address first?

— Marta

Dear Marta,

It sounds like all your hard work is about to pay off in a big way. And I've got some more good news for you. If you two keep living the way you have

California's Perfect Financial Storm

It Could Lead to Another Tax Hike



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

A perfect storm of economic, fiscal and political trends is battering California's already deficit-ridden state budget, leading public employee unions and other interest groups dependent on money from Sacramento to explore hefty tax increases.

The budget has what fiscal authorities call a "structural deficit," meaning that its revenue system, dominated by personal income taxes, cannot generate enough income to fully finance all services and programs in current law.

Estimates of the chronic shortfall range from \$10 billion a year to as much as \$30 billion. Last fall, the Legislative Analyst's Office calculated that state spending was increasing by about 6% a year while revenue was rising by only 4%.

The current budget, enacted in June, had a \$20 billion deficit that was closed by tapping into the state's emergency reserves, borrowing from special funds, postponing some payments and adopting some bookkeeping gimmicks. For instance, the budget eliminates payments to reduce the state's ever-growing unfunded obligations for retiree health care which reached \$91.5 billion, up \$6.3 billion from

a year earlier, Controller Malia Cohen recently revealed.

The permanence of the deficit is one factor that's fueling preliminary cogitating over a tax increase of some kind, which probably would have to be ratified by voters.

Another is the reduction of federal aid to states by President Donald Trump and Congress. Federal funds are more than a quarter of California's \$321 billion state budget and the cuts mostly hit health and welfare programs, such as Medi-Cal. Many are looking to Sacramento for money to offset federal reductions.

Finally, a surtax on incomes of California's wealthiest families, approved by voters in 2012 to deal with an earlier budget deficit, was supposed to last only a few years, but a 2016 ballot measure extended it to 2030. Its backers — public employee unions particularly — are planning to seek either another extension or permanent status.

The Franchise Tax Board says revenue from the surtax spiked to more than \$16 billion in 2021 — thanks to the odd economics of the COVID-19 pandemic — but returned to a more normal \$9-10 billion a year since.

Californians already bear one of the nation's highest tax burdens. Wallet Hub has calculated that California's major state and local taxes are the fourth-highest of any state with an 11% total tax burden.

So what kind of tax increase might be proposed? There aren't a lot of options.

Another income tax hike would be unlikely since maintaining the surtax on high-income taxpayers is already virtually certain to be on the ballot, probably in 2028. Increasing the sales tax, already hovering around 10%, would hit low-income families the hardest.

That leaves corporate income taxes as the most likely target — a source that the California Budget & Policy Center, a left-leaning research nonprofit, has been touting for years. Citing federal aid reductions and cuts in federal taxes on corporations and wealthy taxpayers, the organization is trumpeting the closure of what it views as loopholes in the corporate tax system.

"Given the immense harms that will be done as a result of the recently enacted federal budget bill, state leaders must develop plans to significantly raise state revenues ... in order to balance the state budget and protect California residents that are vulnerable to serious harms from the federal cuts to health care, food assistance, and other federal policies," the organization declares in a compilation of federal reductions.

Clearly something has to give. California cannot continue to run up budget deficits as the reduction of federal aid compounds the state's already precarious finances.

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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Subscription rates in Gridley \$52 per year.
In Live Oak and Biggs - \$62 year (Mail only)
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000549
The following person(s) are doing business as: Point Roan Photography, 3017 6th Street, Biggs, CA 95717

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2525-0000518
The following person(s) are doing business as: 110 ALPHA, Moss and Metal, 9436 Corbett Court, Durham, CA 95938
John A Moss and Kendra A Moss, 9436 Corbett Court, Durham, CA 95938

Date filed in Butte County: July 10, 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 15, 22, 29 Sept 5, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000608
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cali Realty, 2309 Lincoln Street, Oroville, CA 95966

Haley L Chermis, 89 Arbol Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: August 18, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 13, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this state-

ment 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 29, Sept 5, 12, 19, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000603
The following person(s) are doing business as: EC Drywall, 622 Richards Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

Carrillo Eladio Renteria, 622 Richards Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

Date filed in Butte County: August 14, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 14, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: August 29, Sept 5, 12, 19, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000532

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gridco Supply LLC./Gridco Supply LLC, 1763 Riley Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Justin Lee Howard and Bridget Ann Howard, 1763 Riley Road, Gridley, CA 95948

Date filed in Butte County: July 17, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself 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 29, Sept 5, 12, 19, 2025

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #25CV02661

Petitioner Ilda Zamora Carrillo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ilda Zamora Carrillo to Hilda Zamora Carrillo.

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 October 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
Filed on July 29, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: August 22, 29 Sept 5, 12, 2025

CARRILLO
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #25CV02565

Petitioner Shawnta Powers filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Davontae Jaeshaun Powers-Simmons to Davontae Wayne Crosby.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing in-

dicated 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 September 17, 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 29, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: August 22, 29 Sept 5, 12, 2025

POWERS
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #25CV02943

Petitioner Melissa Anne Bryant filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Melissa Anne Bryant to Melissa Anne McGowen.

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 September 24, 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 August 14, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: August 29, Sept 5, 12, 19, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF NICACIO SORIA; AKA: NICACIO RODRIGUEZ, AKA: NICACIO SORIO RODRIGUEZ
CASE NO. 25PR00334

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Nicacio Soria; aka: Nicacio Rodriguez; aka: Nicacio Sorio Rodriguez.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Maria Del Carmen Soria, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Maria Del Carmen Soria 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: September 16, 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: Nicholas R. Deal, 728 5th Street, Marysville, CA 95901; 530-329-5076
Publish: August 15, 22, 29, 2025

SORIA 8-29-25



NOTICE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FILE WRITTEN OBJECTIONS

Reclamation District No. 833
1643 W. Biggs-Gridley Road, Post Office Box 247
Gridley, California 95948

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on May 21, 2025, an operation and maintenance assessment was ordered paid for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, and terminating June 30, 2026, which operation and maintenance assessment will be Twenty Dollars and 00/100 (\$20.00) for each parcel that is one (1.00) acre or less in size. For every parcel which is 1.01 acres or more, the charge will be Five Dollars and 00/100 (\$5.00) per acre. The assessment shall be payable in installments or in one payment as determined by the Tax Collector of the County of Butte and shall be payable concurrent with the installment, or if no installment payment is permitted, with the first installment of the taxes of the County of Butte. This payment, if not made as a part of the County tax billing, shall be subject to the same penalties and interest as are levied upon delinquent payments of County taxes and assessments, and which amount of penalties and interest will be added thereto and collected for the use of the District if delinquency in payment occurs.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if any landowner objects to the valuation of their land, which valuations are set at \$2,500 per acre for parcels one acre and larger in size, and \$10,000 per parcel for parcels one acre or less in size, they may file a written objection with the District on or before November 1, 2025 and are entitled to a hearing before an impartial body upon their objection.

Dated: June 26, 2025

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 833:

SHANNON FONTAIN
Secretary

The Gridley Herald 8-29, 9-5-2025

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED BUTTE WATER DISTRICT TEMPORARY WATER TRANSFERS FROM 2026 TO 2030 PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the Butte Water District (BWD) will be the Lead Agency and prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Temporary Water Transfers from 2026 to 2030 Project. BWD has determined that an EIR must be prepared for the Project prior to making any final decision regarding whether to approve the Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The BWD Board of Directors will consider the EIR when determining how to move forward with the Project.

BWD is requesting any responsible/trustee/cooperating agency or interested person to participate, review, and provide input on how the Project may affect the environment. If you are an authorized representative of an agency with authorization of facilities that may be affected, BWD needs to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. Agencies will need to use the EIR when considering permits or other approvals. Please provide the name, address, telephone number and email address of the contact person for your agency.

BWD is seeking an examination of scope and content of the goals, objectives, policies, and actions to guide and protect the physical, environmental, economic, and social conditions on lands and in the surrounding communities within the proposed pipeline alignment.

Project Title: Temporary Water Transfers from 2026 to 2030 Project
Project Applicant: Butte Water District
735 Virginia Street
Gridley, CA. 95948

Project Location:
The Project area, from which the water for the Project's proposed water transfer would be made available, is defined by the BWD boundaries, which is situated approximately 50 miles north of Sacramento and 85 miles south of Redding.

Project Description:
The Butte Water District (BWD) is preparing for potential one-year water transfers over a five-year period from 2026 through 2030. The transfers may be for environmental enhancement or for one or more buyers with temporary unmet consumptive water demands. Santa Clara Valley Water District would have the first right of refusal for the water transfers from BWD. The Project water transfers would include short-term transfers of up to 21,000 AF in any year. This includes up to 14,000 AF from crop idling transfers and up to of 6,500 AF from groundwater substitution transfers. The EIR analyzes water transfers as if the full amount would be transferred every year during the five-year transfer period; however, transfers may be less frequent and smaller in volume over this period.

Water transfers must comply with all applicable State and federal law. Moreover, under the 1969 Diversion of Water Agreement with the State of California, BWD's water entitlement is subject to a drought reduction under certain circumstances related to dry hydrologic conditions. If BWD's entitlement is curtailed 50 percent for an irrigation season, pursuant to the 1969 Agreement, BWD has not historically participated in a land idling transfer. However, in the event of a lesser reduction, the District may still participate in a land idling transfer. BWD may participate in a groundwater substitution transfer for its lands located in Sutter County under any drought reduction scenario. Annual approval of transfers is required by BWD, the end user, and DWR, regardless of the EIR term or the duration of a water transfer contract. Additionally, if the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program is adopted and implemented during the five-year period from 2026 to 2030, BWD's available transfer supplies may be reduced during "Above Normal", "Below Normal", and "Dry" year types. If the HRL program were approved, DWR would contribute 60,000 AF in the defined call years. BWD would undertake similar transfer actions to replenish a portion of the 60,000 AF advanced by DWR.

Land idled for the purpose of the potential transfers would be drawn from the rice acreage within BWD to the exclusion of irrigable acreage dedicated to other crops and to habitat of the Giant Garter Snake. Adjoining areas, non-rice land, other irrigated lands, drains, wetlands, and waterfowl habitat would not be affected. Water would be available on the same pattern during the growing

season as it would have been consumed had a crop been planted. For the groundwater substitution transfers, the Project would extract up to 6,500 AF of groundwater from two BWD production wells. These volumes may increase if BWD develops additional groundwater substitution capacity during the five-year period of analysis.

No new construction or improvements by BWD, Valley Water or other potential buyers, or DWR would be necessary for the production and transfer of water resulting from the Project. However, a third production well could be installed during the five-year Project duration and would likely be used for Project activities if completed.

Public Review and Scoping Meeting:
Comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIR may be submitted in writing to the attention of:

Donnie Stinnett, District Manager
Butte Water District
735 Virginia Street
Gridley, CA 95948
Phone: (530) 846-3100
Email: donnie@buttewater.net

Dawn E. Marple, Principal Planner, Environmental Project Manager
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
455 W. Fir Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone: (559) 449-2700
Email: dmarple@ppeng.com

Comments in response to the Notice of Preparation will be accepted from August 29, 2025, through September 29, 2025. Persons with questions or requests for information may also use the above contact information.

All written scoping comments should reference Butte Water District Temporary Water Transfers from 2026 to 2030 Project. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and/or email so that we may contact you for clarification, if necessary.

All supporting documents can also be found at <https://buttewaterdistrict.org/>. Pursuant to Section 15083 of the CEQA Guidelines, Public Scoping Meetings will be held to solicit public comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The Public Scoping Meetings will be held as follows:

At the Butte Water District – District Office
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Place: District Office located at 735 Virginia Street, Gridley CA 95948

Summary
Potential Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR will describe the significant direct and indirect environmental impacts of the Project. The Draft EIR also will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the Project, defined as impacts that could be exacerbated when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The BWD anticipates that the Project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts in the following resource areas, which will be further evaluated in the draft EIR: Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality.

These potential impacts will be analyzed and discussed in detail in the Draft EIR, and feasible and practicable mitigation measures will be recommended to reduce any identified significant or potentially significant impacts. The discussion in the draft EIR will also include an alternatives analysis.

The BWD anticipates that the Project would not result in significant environmental impacts in the following resource areas, which will not be further evaluated in the draft EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

The Gridley Herald 8-29-2025

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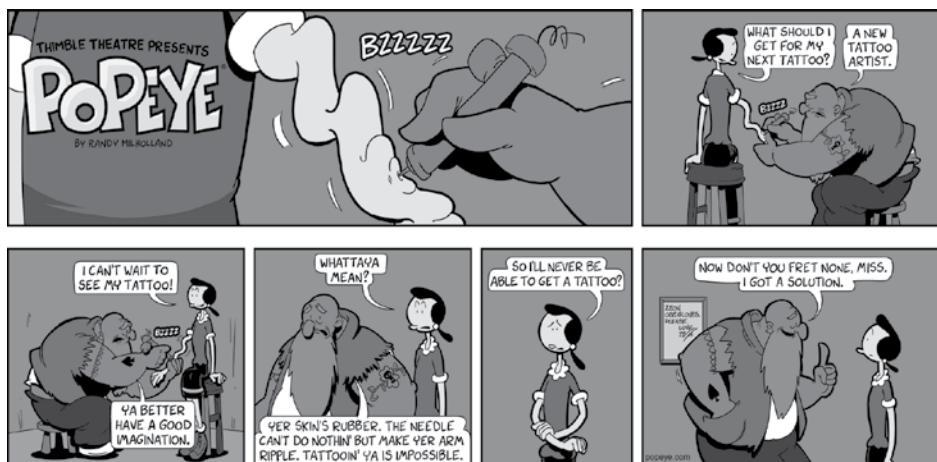
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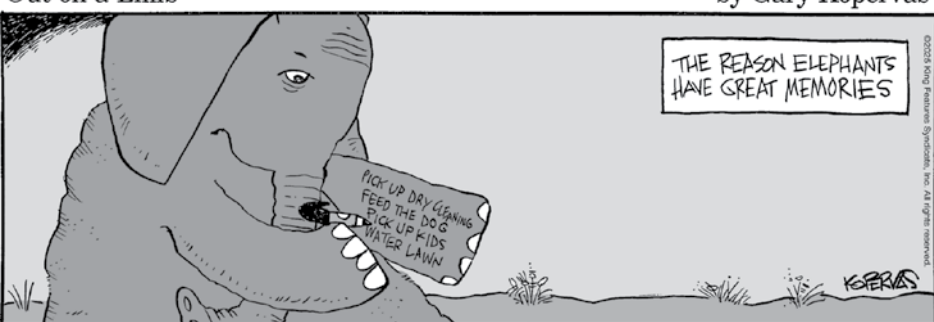
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by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



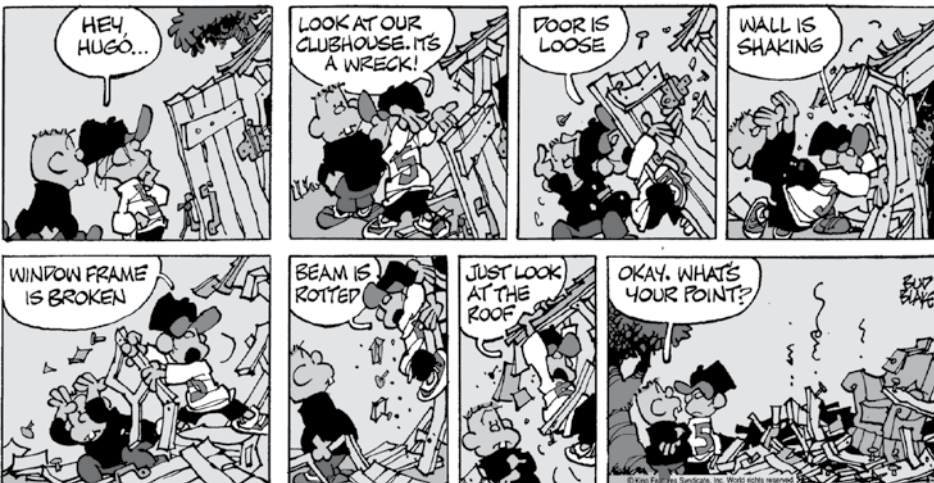
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by Bud Blake



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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Manual calculator, pl.
 - Beach Boys: "Only Knows"
 - Army beds
 - Pressed ham and cheese sandwich
 - Part of spch
 - Popular Latin dance
 - Influencer's creation
 - Hula dancer's flowers
 - Birdlike
 - "Meet me here, under the arch"
 - "Meet me at the Top of the Rock"
 - Comic book expression for alarm
 - Press backward arrow key
 - "Hand" with claws
 - Spreadsheet software command
 - Day off, backwards
 - Bug-eyed
 - "Cheers" regular
 - Coupe alternative
 - Be dependent
 - Damage one's reputation
 - Slightly (2 words)
 - Prefix for below
 - Shade of beige
 - Java neighbor
 - War mounts
 - Rope fiber
 - "Now or Never"
 - Leave at the altar
 - Flapper's feathers
 - "Meet me at the London Bridge"
 - "The Black Eye"
 - Peas: "Meet Me"
 - "Meet me in Mara, Kenya"
 - Undergarment
 - "Meet me in Australia to see this bear"
 - Done to printer cartridge
 - Corn unit
 - Poet W. H. ___ of "Funeral Blues" fame
 - Infamous Nazi villain
 - Strong solution of sodium
 - Like gelled hair
- DOWN**
- Parts of a play
 - Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"
 - Cain's victim
 - Paddler's vessel
 - Endows or empowers
 - "Buffalo ___ won't you come out tonight..."
 - Keats' poem
 - Jinn or genie
 - Guinea pig or capybara
 - Mixture
 - Russian monarch
 - What Titanic did
 - Went to bid farewell (2 words)
 - "Meet me in Orthodox church to see these"
 - "Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968"
 - "Meet me in the largest city in Netherlands"
 - "Meet me under the Eiffel Tower"
 - Real estate broker, e.g.
 - "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom ___

CROSSWORD													
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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.

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. 29: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

Saturday, Aug. 30: All branches closed for Labor Day holiday.

Monday, Sept. 1: Gridley book club, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (G) Gridley Friends of the Library meeting, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (G)

Tuesday, Sept. 2: Creative writing group for adults, 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, Sept. 3: 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, Sept. 4: Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Kid Quest, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Arts and crafts for kids. (G)

Friday, Sept. 5: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

Saturday, Sept. 6: Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

Saturday, Aug. 30 Mile-Long Yard Sale, Downtown Oroville

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1998 Montgomery St., Oroville. Stroll along Montgomery Street's historic homes and discover hidden gems from residents and local organizations. Take a break from your treasure hunt to grab a bite and a refreshing drink from one of our downtown eateries. Businesses will have special sales going on all day. More information at www.downtownoroville.com

Ricky Bobby's Welcome Home Party

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sierra Steel Harley-Davidson, 1501 Mangrove Ave., Chico. Help us welcome Ricky Bobby back to Sierra Steel. Join us for a wild ride of fun, food, and full-throttle Talladega Nights vibes. Break out your racing stripes, Harley gear, or Wonder Bread getups, the louder, the better. More information at www.sier-rasteelhd.com

Saturday, Sept. 6

Live Oak Fall Festival Parade

Parade at noon, followed by the festival and car show at Community

Building parking lot, 10200 O St. Free for everyone. For more information, contact Live Oak City Hall parks & recreation department at 530-695-2112.

Preserving Food with Friends

10 a.m. to noon at the Garden at St. Timothy's, 410 Jackson St. This month, we'll be working with festive pie fillings. For more information, contact preservingfoodwithfriends@gmail.com

Sunday, Sept. 7

Taste of Downtown Chico

11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Enjoy this culinary adventure with live music local flavor, and downtown charm. Over 25 local restaurants, breweries, and pubs will offer exclusive bites and sips. From savory to sweet and everything in between, there's a taste for everyone. Ticket holders will receive eight tasting vouchers and an event guide, available for pick-up starting at 11 a.m. at Chico City Plaza. Tickets and more information at www.downtownchico.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, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers, 3016 Sixth St., Biggs. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

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

Downtown Chico 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.

ESL Let's Talk meets Mondays through the end of October, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Gridley Farm Labor Housing, 850 E. Gridley Road. Practice speaking English in this friendly group setting. All levels are welcome to attend any or all sessions. Sponsored by the Butte County Library.

Gridley City Council meets on the first and third Monday each month, 6 p.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> Due to Labor Day, the next meeting will be Monday Sept. 15.

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, Sept. 3. 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 Sept. 3.

Rotary Club of Gridley 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.

Community Resources – Find Food

First 5 Family Center at Esperanza House, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, at 630 Washington St., Gridley. Caregivers are welcome to drop in for help with resources for their families, access to our food pantry, diapers, and assistance with applications or translations. Call to schedule an appointment: 530-782-0293.

Live Oak Soccer Park, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. monthly on the first Wednesday, 9150 Linda St., Live Oak. Next distribution will be Monday, Sept. 3.

North State Food Bank, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. monthly on the second Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson St., Gridley. Next distribution will be Tuesday, Sept. 9. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

North State Food Bank, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday at Biggs Methodist Church, 441 C St., Biggs. Next distribution will be Tuesday, Sept. 9. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

Sacred Heart Parish, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1561 Hazel St., Gridley on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. Call 530-846-2140 for more information. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern,

Tod Kimmelshue, our District 4 representative, just granted himself a 111% raise during the first year of his new term. Even if we vote him out in 2029, which I hope we do, he will still walk away with an additional half a million dollars of taxpayer money in his pocket.

He is lining his pockets while Gridley residents make a median salary of just \$31,000. He should be ashamed, and we should be disgusted and outraged.

What can we do? 1). Petition circulation: Citizens can circulate a petition to protest an ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors and request that the issue be put to a public vote. But we have to act quickly! 2). Contact Tod directly: Maybe his friends, neighbors and the people he serves can talk some sense into him. 3). Recall: Expensive and time-consuming, but if Tod is using his position to enrich himself, what choice do we have?

Why I'm outraged:

According to Butte County Ordinance #4206 regarding Annual Salary Adjustment:

Upon notification from the Judicial Council of California of any increase in the salary for judges, as specified in Government Code Section 68203, the Board of Supervisors may adopt an ordinance or amended ordinance increasing the salaries of each Board of Supervisors member by the same percentage increase as the judges. However, the annual increase in salary of each Board of Supervisors member shall in no case exceed five percent and shall not become effective prior to the effective date of the related increase in salary for judges. Any ordinance changing supervisorial salaries shall become effective no earlier than 60 days from the date of its final passage.

Key facts: 1). Average annual pay for a court judge in Chico (as of Aug. 6, 2025): \$98,899 (ZipRecruiter). 2). Median household income in Butte County: \$68,574 (U.S. Census Bureau via World Population Review). 3). Median annual salary for Board of Supervisors in CA counties with household incomes at or below \$100,000: \$52,663. 4). Butte County estimated 2025 population: 206,778. 5). Median salary for supervisors in counties with populations between 200,000–240,000 (2023): \$88,000–\$127,000 annually; El Dorado County (~200,000) – \$88,627; Madera County – \$73,624; Napa County – \$115,904; 6). Peer median used in some county wage ordinances: \$7,353/month (\$88,236/year).

According to the Sacramento County Grand Jury report "Board of Supervisors' Pay Increases: Mistakes Have Consequences": 1). In the past, base pay was set at 55% of a Municipal Court Judge's salary. 2). In 2001, this changed to 55% of a Superior Court Judge's salary. 3). The recent change raises it to 75% of a Superior Court Judge's salary.

Bottom line: If the Board claims salary increases are needed to recruit highly qualified candidates, why implement them now, when most current members still have four years left in their terms?

There is no reasonable justification for Tod and his allies' decision beyond greed.

Sincerely,
Kelly Fredericks

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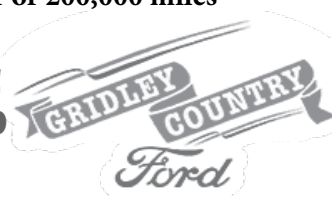
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Gridley Titans Football

8U Titans Take Down Trojans



The 8u Gridley Titans show off their numbers ready to play. Photo courtesy of Nicole Vaughn

**By Head Coach
Dustin Terrell**

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The 8u Gridley Titans faced off against the Durham Jr Trojans on Saturday Aug. 23 in Durham. The Titans continued

to play great football on both sides of the ball resulting in a 42-6 victory. Kanon Buzzard and Benten Waller scored twice, while Jax Terrell and Emmett Burns provided one score a



The 8u Gridley Titans huddle together at center field. Photo courtesy of Nicole Vaughn

piece. Jax and Kanon also connected two 2-point conversion passes. On defense Valentino Guillen and Branston Crislip both caused turnovers while also recording multiple tackles in the backfield.

Captains of the game were No. 4 Jax Terrell, No. 55 Emmett Burns, No. 14 Conor Mell, and No. 47 Blake Pratt. The 8u Titans return to action Saturday Sept. 6 in Corning at 10 a.m. ★

Titans 10U Destroy Durham



The one 1-0 10u Gridley Titans were on the road this past Saturday, in Durham. Photo courtesy of Nick Thao

**By Gridley Titans
Coaching Staff**

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The one 1-0 10u Gridley Titans were on the road this past Saturday, in Durham. Penalties kept the game close in the beginning but in the end, it was 30-0 Gridley Titans.

Gridley's defense was too much for Durham holding Durham to 0 first downs. On the offensive side it was all Titans. With touchdown

runs by Kobe Neal (2), Tyler Smith, Casen Gruber and Boss Davis. Francisco Guillen III kicked a pair of onside kicks recovered by Ashton Hospers and Tyler Smith. Guillen III and Jacob Ceballos also recovered a fumble each as well on defense.

Gridley's offensive and defensive lines were dominate all day. After a bye this Saturday the Titans head to Corning the Saturday Sept. 6 at noon. ★

12U Titans Trample Trojans

**By Coach Aaron
Lumsden**

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The 12U Gridley Titans traveled to Durham and defeated the Jr. Trojans 13-0, dominating every aspect of the game.

The Titan's

defense was aggressive throughout the contest and did not allow a single first down in the game, making their first shutout in the season. The Titan's offensive line, led by: Kaisen Carter, Jase Lowery, Esaias

Valdes, Izayah Curiel, and Nash Benson pushed the Jr. Trojans off the line of scrimmage; creating massive holes for running backs Victor Guillen, Deandre Carothers, and Anthony Flores-Hernandez to run

freely down the field. Quarterback Cal Lumsden and running back Anthony Flores-Hernandez each scored a touchdown in the victory.

The Titan's travel to Corning for their next game to face the Jr. Lions. ★

Titans 14U Fight Hard

By Coach Randall Huff

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Our Titans 14u had a game last Saturday vs the Durham Jr Trojans.

It was a hard-fought game, but unfortunately our Jr. titans came up short in a 10 to 0 loss.

They kids played hard in over 100° the whole game. Titans

look to get better during our bye week as they prepare for the Corning Jr Cardinals on Sept. 6 at Corning High School. Come out and support the Jr Titans. ★

Biggs Eyes 2025 Opener with Weed



Biggs Wolverines 2025

2024 record: 7-4, lost in first round of CIF Northern Section Division V playoffs

Coach: Brian Harrison

**League:
Mid-Valley League**



Caption Skyler long throwing ball: Biggs senior quarterback Skyler Long throws a deep pass during the Wolverines' practice on August 13. Photo by Chris Pedigo

to the Wolverines roster is his leadership. Long is consistently checking in with his teammates throughout the day.

Long will be a leader on the defensive side as he had more than 50 tackles and led the team with 7.0 sacks in 2024.

Senior tight end Russell Cote III will be an intricate part of the offense in the pivotal position that does it all. Cote told YSBC that the offense has a lot of different options that can get the ball and he can't wait to see how it unfolds on Friday nights.

Cote has full belief in his team and thinks they have enough to reach the pinnacle of bringing something back to the Biggs community. "This squad has everything that it takes to be successful," Cote said.

One of the other key pieces on defense returning for the Wolverines is senior linebacker Jordan Zamora. Zamora had 52 tackles and 3.5 sacks in 2024.

Schedule
8/29 vs. Weed, 7 p.m., 9/5 vs. Redding Christian 7:30 p.m., 9/12 vs. Highlands (Sacramento), 7:30 p.m., 9/19 at Durham, 7:30 p.m., 9/26 at Maxwell * 7:30 p.m., 10/3 vs. Quincy * 7:30 p.m., 10/17 at Portola * 7:30 p.m., 10/24 vs. Los Molinos * 7:30 p.m., 10/31 at Williams * 7:30 p.m., 11/7 vs. Hamilton * 7:30 p.m. (*= Mid-Valley League game).

The Wolverines get an opportunity to settle a score that knocked them out of the playoffs last year in the first game of the season. As it's important to come out strong, Biggs will be ready to make a statement against Weed.

Their non-league schedule is competitive once again as they host an up-and-coming Redding Christian team with a lot of potential. The final preseason game at Durham will give the Wolverines a perfect test going into MVL play the following



Biggs player practices a drive-up field. Photo by Chris Pedigo

week.

Biggs finished in a three-way tie for the MVL title with Hamilton and Maxwell last year

and you can expect another gut-wrenching time in league as all teams have had success over the past few seasons. ★



Biggs head coach Brian Harrison runs an offensive drill during the Wolverine practice on August 13. Photo by Chris Pedigo

Schedule

8/29 vs. Weed, 7 p.m.
9/5 vs. Redding Christian, 7:30 p.m.
9/12 vs. Highlands (Sacramento), 7:30 p.m.
9/19 at Durham, 7:30 p.m.
9/26 at Maxwell* 7:30 p.m.
10/3 vs. Quincy * 7:30 p.m.
10/17 at Portola* 7:30 p.m.
10/24 vs. Los Molinos* 7:30 p.m.
10/31 at Williams* 7:30 p.m.
11/7 vs. Hamilton* 7:30 p.m.
*Mid-Valley League game

Athletes
The Wolverines graduated a lot of skill positioned athletes in 2025, but senior quarterback Skyler Long returns under center and that is a huge upside coming into this season.

Long accumulated over 1400 yards of offense last year, but the best trait of Long's return

22nd Air Task Force Proves Combat Readiness at Northern Strike 25-2

By Airman 1st Class Chelsea Arana, 9th Reconnaissance Wing

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, CA (MPG) - Airmen from the 22nd Air Task Force (ATF), comprised of military members from Beale, Travis, and Fairchild Air Force Bases (AFB), wrapped up their participation in the 2-week training event Exercise Northern Strike 25-2 (NS 25-2) on Aug. 9 at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

Michigan's role as host for NS 25-2 was crucial in shaping the realism and complexity of the training environment. The state's diverse terrain and established infrastructure at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base allowed for seamless integration of joint operations in simulated strategically relevant locations.

"We are proud to provide the coordination and infrastructure needed to ensure our total force partners are ready for deployable operations anywhere in the world," said Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Kramer II, Michigan National Guard, Assistant to the Adjutant General - Air.

Throughout the week, the Air Task Force responded to a series of realistic and high-intensity scenarios designed to simulate the conditions of modern warfare. Airmen operated in full Mission-Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) training. Additionally, members were subject to indirect fire attacks, base-wide Alarm Red and Alarm Black conditions which forced units to react quickly and maintain operations under duress.

Key training elements included medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) scenarios, where Airmen coordinated rapid MEDEVAC responses to simulated casualties. Chemical, biological,



C-130 and MQ-9 forward deploy to Battle Creek Air National Guard Base during Northern Strike 25-2. Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Robert Nichols

radiological and nuclear response teams sprinted through decontamination drills and base defenders locked down perimeters after simulated incursions.

In partnership with the Air Force Research Lab Airmen also practiced hot pit refueling, paired with a KC-135 virtual reality trainer that enhanced understanding of

aircraft ground operations in a risk-free environment. The exercise offered a unique opportunity to integrate emerging technologies with warfighters in a joint



Army CH-47 Chinook transports Airmen to simulated forward deployed locations. Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Robert Nichols

environment to receive real time feedback from service members.

"Preparing for Northern Strike aided me in becoming a certified instructor which has given me opportunities to teach other units about my specialty as a defender," said Senior Airman Kelsee Ford, 60th Security Forces Squadron installation patrolman. "Here at Northern Strike, I have been able to learn about combat operations and what it takes to effectively sustain an installation under real-world conditions."

Drawing on their designated areas of expertise, members across the participating units had something to contribute to the overall success of NS 25-2. This included essential safety and fire support, emergency response capabilities, public affairs, and a rigorous wing inspection team making sure that every task met mission standards. Together, their combined efforts underscored the power of a unified, multi-base team operating with precision and purpose.

"We aren't just training to fight, we are fighting to transform how our Air Force fights," said Col. William J. Watkins, 22nd Air Task Force commander. "That's our calling. That's our privilege. That's our burden. That's our honor."

The end of this exercise isn't just the close of a training event for the 22nd Air Task Force, it marks a key milestone in their growth as a ready, responsive, and lethal force. From contingency response to combat support, Airmen were tested under pressure across every mission-essential task, proving their ability to deploy and fight when called upon. Now, they return to their home units with a sharpened operational edge and stronger cohesion as a lethal, deployable force. ★



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