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The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Gridley and Biggs



# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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FRIDAY • OCTOBER 17, 2025 • VOL. 145 NO. 42

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## Welcome Home Wheeler Ranch and Realty



Kari Wheeler (with scissors) cuts the ribbon at the Grand Opening of her new realty office in Biggs, surrounded by members of the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce, friends, family and fellow realtors working in the Wheeler Ranch Realty powered by LPT Realty office. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - Kari Wheeler returns to her roots with Wheeler Ranch Realty, opening the doors to her new location in hometown Biggs.

Wheeler tells the Gridley Herald she is proud to have purchased and remodeled the building located at 476 B. Street and been able to bring her business to the historic corridor of downtown Biggs.

Wheeler stepped onto the real estate scene a few years ago, debuting with Wheeler Ranch and Realty Group. She expanded to an office location on Hazel Street, Gridley, and was joined by multiple new agents.

The entrepreneur has taken her realty business to the next step and cemented with the purchase of the office in Biggs, under the LPT label.

Wheeler Ranch Realty powered by LPT is led by Wheeler and has become a supportive environment that has attracted more than 25 agents, with a goal to mentor and help them grow lucrative careers.

Wheeler says that working with LPT has been wonderful, stating that it does everything to help new agents get started. She hopes that her group will grow to closer to 50 by the end of the year.

The new office features a comfortable lobby for guests, large conference room with a shared workspace off of it which functions as an office for agents to use when on the move or to use to meet with clients. Wheeler keeps a private front office in the front.

Wheeler held an official open house and grand opening complete with



Realtors working at the office include from left Anthony Ellis, Kimberly Watson, Julie Castaneda, and Kari Wheeler. Not pictured include La Shel Sample Sanders and Laura Segura. Courtesy photo



The Wheeler Family poses outside the new Biggs location of Wheeler Ranch Realty powered by LPT Realty, owned by Kari Wheeler. Pictured left to right: Kelsi Peiffer (Wheeler), Kayla Dunlap (Wheeler), Doug & Kari Wheeler, and Jake Wheeler. Photo by Seti Long

ribbon cutting ceremony Friday, Oct. 3, surrounded by members of the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce, family, friends, supporting public and fellow realtors based in the new office.

Wheeler thanked all in attendance and shared how much it meant to her to

be back at home and supported by such a wonderful group of real estate agents.

Wheeler and agents thanked guests on social media saying, "Your support, smiles and love for our community mean so much. We are beyond grateful to be part of it all." ★

## Gridley Sports Complex Facing Soil Snag

By Susan Meeker

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Alarmed by unstable soil conditions at Gridley's new sports complex, city officials fear the discovery of "quicksand" beneath the proposed lighting foundations could inflate construction costs and challenge what the city has budgeted for the project.

During the Oct. 7 City Council meeting, contracted City Engineer Dave Harden, co-owner of Bennett Engineering, whose firm has provided engineering services to Gridley since 2016, reported that a 16-foot test hole drilled for a lighting pole sank 11 inches within an hour, and further drilling revealed roughly 22 more feet of clean sand, which were conditions the design team had not anticipated during initial planning.

To address the unexpected conditions, Harden recommended a

\$38,661 increase in the city's contract to cover deep soil borings so Crawford & Associates, a geotechnical firm subcontracted through Bennett, could provide the necessary soil data to finalize structural designs for the lighting foundations, which must meet wind and seismic safety standards.

The Gridley Sports Complex, located in the city's Industrial Park, is a multi-phase recreational development funded in part by a \$3 million Proposition 68 Rural Recreation and Tourism Grant, with the city responsible for all remaining costs, which are already approaching \$1 million. Plans call for three multi-use sports fields designed to accommodate youth soccer, football, and baseball leagues, addressing a long-standing shortage of practice and play space for local teams and city-sponsored programs.

The first phase of the \$4 million budgeted project, which has already begun, includes a lighting system featuring seven galvanized steel poles, each 70 feet tall, designed to support LED luminaires with glare and spill control. The system is engineered to meet IES Class III standards, providing recreational-level illumination suitable for youth sports, according to the bid documents.

The proposed contract amendment failed to gain traction with only four members of the Gridley City Council present for the discussion.

Vice Mayor Bruce Johnson voted no on an initial motion to approve, citing concern over open-ended costs. Councilmember Catalina Sanchez abstained, saying she lacked sufficient information after pressing Harden on whether more thorough soil testing should have

Continued on page 3

## Council Discusses Options to Address 'Severe' Structural Deficit

By Shaunna Boyd

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - At the Oct. 1 meeting of the Live Oak City Council, a resident spoke during public comment to share plans for a citizens' initiative in the next election. The city contracts with Sutter County Fire Department for fire services, and as a fire captain in the department, she said she understands the city's financial challenges in covering those costs. The initiative will be a fire-only tax measure specific to Live Oak. If approved by the voters, the tax would be levied per parcel, with revenues going to the city to cover fire services.

The council considered an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Public Employees Union Local No. 1. City Manager Ben Moody said the city and the union were able to work together to reach a reasonable agreement: a two-year term, with a 1.75% cost-of-living increase this fiscal year and a 1.25% increase the following year. Also included is a uniform allowance for maintenance workers to cover the cost of new steel-toe boots.

Moody said the fiscal impact to the city's budget will be an additional \$19,000 this year.

Councilmember Nancy Santana said, "Our union rep is usually pretty fair with us. And they definitely deserve some boots."

The council voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding.

City Manager Moody then presented an in-depth budget analysis with options to help "course correct the city." He said there needs to be some "tough discussions. The city has a severe structural deficit. High level, we're bringing in \$10 million, we're spending \$15 [million]. That just doesn't work."

Moody said while costs everywhere are increasing, the city's revenues are flat — mostly coming from property taxes, water and sewer rates, vehicle licensing, sales tax and community facilities district (CFD) fees on homes built after 2004.

The water fund is operating at a deficit, but Moody said that will course correct over the next few years due to the recent rate increases.

Continued on page 4

# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

same can be said of trucks. Agriculture will be revolutionized in the coming decade as unmanned sprayers, harvesters, weeders, and waterers adopt automation. So if you have a young person in your life, have them study computers and engineering, or sign them up for law school as the legal battles over robots and jobs will be a big part of our world for the next 30 years.

\*\*\*

The other big development from the future that has arrived in the present day is the ability to put in Apple headphones and have them translate from people speaking in different languages. The latest version of the Apple AirPods lets you talk to someone as you normally would, and if you're both wearing Apple headphones, the conversation is translated to the other person's ears instantly. So add language translator to the jobs soon to be not needed as well.

\*\*\*

One last look at the present state of technological innovation - the other day I made a phone call by talking into my wrist watch and remembered that as a kid, only the comic book legend Dick Tracy could do such a thing, and now I do it when I'm trying to walk into the house with too many bags of groceries.

\*\*\*

Another reason why reading an old-fashioned newspaper is still popular. It is something that still is - what it is (the robotic grammar/spell checker tried three times to rework that last sentence).

\*\*\*

*Josh F.W. Cook writes weekly for the historic Gridley Herald.* ★

# White Web's Haunt Happening Soon!



Despite the home-made horror props and scary scenes, the Whites say they strive to keep the unnecessary gore to a minimum. Photo courtesy of Durl White



The White family debuted their family-friendly haunted house to the community back in 2017 and it has since grown into White Web's Haunt Haunted House. Photo courtesy of Durl White

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Instead of starting a band or building a computer in his garage, Durl White went to the dark side and started a haunted house.

The White family debuted their family-friendly haunted house to the community back in 2017 and it has since grown into White Web's Haunt Haunted House, a YouTube Channel and become a big player in the underground haunted house community.

Durl and wife Erica White shared the journey with the Gridley Herald, weeks before their 2025 Haunted House opens for the scary season.

Each year, the husband-and-wife duo, supported by their children Cash and Aleena, put on a huge show for the public for three days around Halloween.

The garage still functions as part of the haunted house, but it has expanded to take up the back yard, utilizing an array of pop-up tents, tarps and more to create long winding hallways to funnel

guests through a variety of themed rooms.

Despite the home-made horror props and scary scenes, the Whites say they strive to keep the unnecessary gore to a minimum and focus more on surprise to make it suitable for all ages.

With their own children being participants from early ages and enjoying it, the Whites encourage youth volunteers and actors to participate in the fun.

While the event has been free in the past, the Whites

have networked with local service groups and school classes in order to recruit volunteers to help run the show and function as actors. As a result, White Webs Haunted House will be asking for a \$5 donation for entry this year, with all proceeds being donated to the graduation Class of 2029.

The frights would not be possible without the help of volunteers. From building and set up, to actors, the Whites say finding the man-power to create

the scare-power can be difficult.

"Our biggest struggle is finding volunteer actors for Halloween night," said Durl White. Erica agrees, adding that their youth and teen actors aren't available due to personal plans.

The Whites welcome volunteers and will set them up with props and outfits if needed, or they can furnish their own and a position will be found for them. Erica reaffirms that actors will be assigned roles appropriate for their age and their comfort level.

Durl goes over safety information each night with the actors before performances begin, and guests are cautioned.

This year's showtimes include 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. showings Oct. 25 and 26, and a Halloween night show Oct. 31 from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The haunts happen at 1653 Ban Dr., Gridley.

If you'd like to volunteer at this year's White Webs Haunted House, reach out to Erica White at 254-423-6001 or send a message to White Web's Haunt Facebook page. ★



Aleena and her father Durl White hint at a potential new feature this year at the White Webs Haunted House? Potentially. Photo courtesy of Durl White



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# Tasting 21

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Quotas 21 Annual Tasting Event returns in time for fall of 2025, to be held Saturday Oct. 25.

Quota has broadened the scope of their tasting to include local wine vintages, artisan brews, ciders and handcrafted root beers to tantalize patrons' pallets.

At the previous year's event, Tina Haro was inspired to incorporate grazing tables into the evening of tasting.

This year the ladies of Quota will combine the forementioned elements, creating an evening of delights without lines. Patrons will be urged to mingle and roam freely throughout the venue of Gridley's Veterans Memorial Hall, sampling bite-sized hors d'oeuvres and charcuterie-style spreads on eight large grazing tables.

The Quota Tasting Event has been a staple to the group, originally held at the Portuguese hall, then moved to Veterans Memorial Hall for more space. Now 21 years later, it returns to the cherished historical venue and promises an evening of entertainment, door prizes, raffle opportunities and auctions, along with an excellent spread of delights and desserts.

A few twists have been added to the event besides the inclusion of the massive charcuterie-style grazing tables.

"We have never had the event on a Saturday," shared event co-chair Cindy Davis. "We've had it on a Thursday for 20 years, so we are excited to see what this year brings!"

Davis said that she and co-chair Jan Myer hope the Saturday evening time frame will bring even more out to the event. The committee planned games and



Gridley Quota invites you to their 21 Annual Tasting Event. Pictured here are the 2025-2026 officers. From left, front row are President Maggie Hepworth and Treasurer Pat Teague. From left, middle row is President-Elect Cathy Smith & Sue Bernard, and Directors Susan Prendeville, Groverlee Dahl, Susan Jarret and Kimberly Watson. From left, back row is Vice President Jan Meyer, Secretary Jenniver Sepulveda, Parliamentarian Sandra Forney and Directo Angie Cote. Courtesy photo

activities and arranged for a DJ to enhance the atmosphere of the event.

Raffle and auctions promise not to disappoint.

"We have some great donations from the local community" said Davis, sharing that auction items range from small to large

ticket items.

This year the Quota 21st Annual Tasting Event will feature Feather Fall Brewery, Sierra Nevada Brewery and Sutter Buttes Brewery ales, and Silicia Winery (Live Oak), Hickman Family Vineyard (Bangor), Cordi Winery

(Buttes), Greenstone Winery (Clarksville), Grey Fox (Oroville) and Grocery Outlet wines will be pouring.

For those non-alcoholic tasters, ciders will be available courtesy Safeway and locals Steve and Maggie Hepworth will provide

their locally famous home brewed root beer.

To purchase a ticket for this evening of indulgence, visit the Gridley Quota Facebook Page or scan the QR code on the Gridley Herald's ad. Tickets are \$30/each - must be 21 to attend. ★

## Gridley Sports Complex Facing Soil Snag

Continued from page 1

been conducted before construction began.

Harden explained that the city had relied on a conservative bid estimate using assumed soil characteristics and FEMA data, which showed no major subsurface hazards. He said the design for the light poles was based on the best soil data available at the time to avoid delays and keep the project moving forward.

"But this is like quicksand," Harden said. "It's just a different animal that contractors aren't used to dealing with."

While "quicksand" was used informally throughout the discussion, the U.S. Geological Survey

provides a more technical explanation for the geologic hazard known as "liquefaction," which occurs when loose, water-saturated soils lose strength, causing the ground to behave like a liquid.

According to the U.S.G.S Earthquake Hazards Program, "liquefaction is a phenomenon that is caused by earthquake shaking. Wet sand can become liquid-like when strongly shaken, leading to ground failure and structural damage."

According to the Butte County General Plan 2040, areas of Butte County most susceptible to liquefaction include the southwestern portion of the county, particularly near the cities of Biggs and

Gridley, where groundwater levels are high and soils consist of unconsolidated alluvium. Liquefaction can result in significant ground failure, including lateral spreading, loss of bearing strength and ground settlement, the general plan states.

While the City of Gridley's General Plan 2030 states that seismic risk is not a major issue for Gridley, compared to other parts of California, the plan does note that earthquake-induced conditions such as ground shaking, liquefaction and ground failure are still relevant and must be considered in local hazard mitigation efforts.

Mayor Mike Farr, drawing on

his knowledge of past infrastructure projects, said soil conditions at the sports complex site are like those encountered during other construction in the area.

"That quicksand is known from old sewer mine construction," Farr said. "Its depth fluctuates."

With no clear path forward, the council tabled the action to the next meeting for staff to gather more information, cost comparisons and options.

Harden's recommendation is to drill three 38-foot borings to provide an average soil profile and proceed from there. The council also may consider boring at the location of all seven light poles, which would offer site-specific data but require more time and funding.

"We need transparency and

assurance that we won't face unexpected expenses," Sanchez said. "There can't be another surprise."

Harden said he could offer no assurances until they determine how deep the contractor must go to reach stable ground.

"We want to know where that firm foundation is so that we can build a foundation for these lights," Harden said.

The City Council is expected to decide how to move forward at its Oct. 21 meeting to curb further delays on the project. Due to the grant specification and funds expended so far, a change in location to another area of the city is not an option, officials said.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, Butte County General Plan 2040, Gridley City Plan 2030. ★

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# Walnuts Crack Top Spot in Crop Rankings

By Susan Meeker

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Walnuts shelled the competition for the top spot in Butte County's agriculture rankings, generating \$150.3 million and outpacing almonds and rice for the first time, according to the county's annual Crop and Livestock Report.

The report, submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture on Sept. 30, shows a total gross agricultural value of \$589.1 million for the 2024 calendar year. That marks a \$15.2 million increase over 2023's total of \$573.9 million, though still below the county's 10-year average of \$657.6 million.

Butte County Agricultural Commissioner Katharine Quist emphasized that the figures reflect commodity value only, not grower profit.

"The values presented in this report are gross values only and do not reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing," Quist wrote in a letter to CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.

Quist also described agriculture as a "key and foundational industry in our region," noting that it supports not only farmers but also professionals in banking, transportation and equipment services. According to regional data cited in the report, agriculture contributes an estimated \$4.1 billion in economic activity across Northeastern California and supports more than 43,000 jobs, roughly one in seven local positions.

Walnuts' rise to the top was driven by the sharpest value increase noted in the report. Grower prices more than doubled, from \$785 per ton in 2023 to \$1,720 in 2024, while yield per acre slipped from 2 tons to 1.7 tons and bearing acreage declined from 54,428 to 51,390 acres.

According to the California Walnut Commission's 2024 industry update, the walnut industry "experienced a significant rebound in 2024, driven by improved pricing, reduced carryover and strong global demand."

That statewide trend was reflected locally, as Butte County growers benefited from higher prices and immediate export opportunities. With no carryover inventory from the previous season, harvest shipments began early, reaching 59 countries and helping walnuts rise to the top of Butte County's crop rankings for the first time on record.

Almonds ranked second in total crop value at \$122.6 million, rebounding after a sluggish 2023. Bearing acreage dipped from 36,600 to 34,920 acres, but yield improved from 0.8 to 0.9 tons per acre. The price per ton rose from \$3,100 to \$3,900, pushing total value up by more than \$31.8 million. Almond hulls added another \$2.8 million, though down from \$4.4 million the previous year.

Rice followed in third at \$118.2 million, remaining a cornerstone crop despite a reduction in acreage. Growers planted 71,388 acres in 2024, down from 85,444 acres in 2023. Yield per acre rose slightly from 4.5 to 4.8 tons, but the price per ton fell from \$425 to \$345, resulting in a \$45.2 million drop in value. Rice seed contributed an additional \$13.4 million, down from \$29.7 million the previous year.

Peaches experienced a sharp decline. Acreage fell from 1,342 to 1,139 acres, and yield dropped from 19 to 14 tons per acre. The price per ton remained relatively stable, but total value fell from \$16 million to \$10 million.

Pistachios brought in \$5.1 million, down from \$6.3 million. Acreage increased, but yield dropped from 2.0 to 1.25 tons per acre, and the price per ton fell from \$4,000 to \$3,700.

Olives for oil generated \$1 million, a modest increase over 2023. Yield improved slightly, and prices remained steady.

Fruit and nut crops dominated the report, generating a combined value of \$343 million, an increase of nearly \$86 million over the previous year. That category includes high-performing staples like walnuts and almonds, as well as miscellaneous crops such as apples, apricots, grapes, mandarins, persimmons and pecans, which together contributed \$4 million in 2024. Total acreage rose to 105,261 acres, up from 101,479, reflecting both new plantings and maturing orchards entering full production.

By contrast, field crops saw a notable decline, dropping from \$182.2 million in 2023 to \$145.7 million in 2024. Rice remained the largest contributor in that category, followed by miscellaneous field crops, dry edible beans and pasture. Irrigated pasture held steady at \$2.1 million, while other pasture lands increased in value by nearly \$1 million.

Nursery stock remained consistent, generating \$18.2 million across 273 acres. Vegetable crops brought in \$1.3 million, down slightly from the previous year.

Timber production rose modestly, with harvested timber valued at \$2.2 million, up from \$2 million in 2023. The report notes that timber data is provided by the State Board of Equalization's Timber Tax Division.

Organic agriculture accounted for \$29 million in gross value across 6,170 acres, with 63 producers and 23 handlers registered in Butte County. Top organic commodities included rice, walnuts, almonds, peaches and nursery stock.

Livestock values remained steady, totaling \$15.6 million in 2024 compared to \$15.2 million the previous year. Cattle and calves led the category, generating \$13.9 million from 13,800 head and a total live weight of 73,000 hundredweight. The average price per hundredweight rose to \$190, up from \$185 in 2023.

Sheep production increased, with 2,500 head, generating \$450,000 in total value, an increase from \$420,000 in 2023, despite a slight drop in total live weight. Miscellaneous livestock, including hogs, poultry and goats contributed \$1.3 million, down from \$1.6 million the previous year.

Milk production brought in \$1.3 million, a slight decrease from \$1.3 million in 2023. The report includes both market and manufacturing milk.

Apiary products, including pollination services and hive-related commodities, totaled \$17.4 million, a decrease of more than \$2.2 million from the previous year. Pollination services accounted for \$14 million, while other products such as wax and combs added \$3.4 million.

The report also highlights the county's pest exclusion and detection efforts, including 1,066 traps placed to monitor invasive species and 356 shipments inspected for exotic pests. The department continues to collaborate with California Detector Dog Teams to enhance parcel inspections.

In a dedication included in the report, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office honored Louie B. Mendoza Jr., who retired in December 2024 after 22 years of service to Butte County and a 38-year career in public agriculture. Mendoza was recognized for his leadership in statewide policy, environmental stewardship, and founding the Bee Where Program.

The 2024 report marks the 85th annual submission from Butte County, which has published agricultural summaries since 1939. ★

# Council Discusses Options to Address 'Severe' Structural Deficit

Continued from page 1

But in the sewer fund, "rates are not keeping up with operational costs," said Moody. The city built a new sewer facility in 2013, and rates have not increased since that time. And there are not enough service connections in the city to offset the increasing operational costs. So, Moody said that fund is now running into a structural deficit as well.

Looking at citywide cashflow, including the general fund and all restricted funds, Moody said, "We're starting this [fiscal] year with \$7 million in the bank, all in. We're taking in revenues of \$10.5 [million]. Total outflow is \$15.3 [million]. And so, you carry that over to next year... July 1, 2026, you're going to have \$2 million in the bank, all in. And by the end of the year, you're going to be -\$400,000 if we don't do anything different."

Moody said the city is already operating with very limited staff, and even if every employee were laid off, "you're still barely treading water." While he recommended maintaining some existing vacancies, cutting employees won't solve the problem and would cause significant issues to vital operations: "You can't just cut your way out of this."

There are many capital improvement projects planned for this year, but Moody recommended some be delayed until the financial situation improves — such as the pool resurfacing project, Garden Glen Park improvements, Ash Street sewer hatch and water infrastructure improvements.

Other recommendations included increasing revenues by updating the Master Fee Schedule to align with actual costs and municipal code updates to spur new development. Revenue could also be generated through modifying the existing special property taxes, implementing new public safety property taxes, or a general sales tax initiative.

Moody also suggested sending notices to Sutter County Sheriff and Fire Departments to initiate a potential termination of the existing annual service contracts — \$2.7 million for police and \$1.3 million for fire. The 12-month process would need to begin soon, in order to be eligible to end next November. Moody said the contracts could be renegotiated to levels the city can afford, or they can be maintained without change if new revenue sources are identified in the meantime.

"Something has to change very soon," said Moody, otherwise those bills are going to come due, and the city won't be able to pay them.

Councilmember Santana agreed that it would make sense to delay capital improvement projects, but she did not agree with sending termination notices to the police department, and especially not to the fire department.

"They save lives here; they save properties here. I think that's an insult to them," Santana said.

Santana asked how there was a deficit in the sewer fund, since she believes the rates in Live Oak are higher than neighboring areas.

Moody explained that under the current sewer rates, the city collects \$2.5 million per year but spends \$4.3 million, so they have burned through the fund's reserves.

Vice Mayor Aaron Pamma thanked Moody for the analysis: "It puts a lot into perspective."

Pamma asked whether the city would even have enough money to pay the police and fire contracts next year if no changes are made.

Moody said he doesn't want to cut the contracts, but "you're going to run out of money," and the city will still be legally responsible for paying the costs of the contracts. He clarified that the notices do not officially terminate the contracts

but provide an ability to make changes if needed.

Pamma said there is only so much the city can cut from the budget without sacrificing quality of life for the residents, so he didn't want to see increases to resident fees for programs or services. He recommended focusing on attracting new developments to collect more impact fees and sales taxes. He also suggested selling some city-owned properties to bring in immediate revenue.

Moody agreed that new development would provide long-term benefits but won't solve the immediate cash flow issues. He also explained that the sale of city-owned properties are bound by Surplus Land Act restrictions, and some parcels are deed-restricted for public use.

Councilmember Bob Woten said he felt uneasy sending notices to the police and fire departments, but he understood it was strategic placeholder in case they need to make changes.

"I don't think any of us want to cut services. It's just a rock and a hard place," said Woten. "We just have to move forward and keep exploring and making decisions as to what we think is the best path."

Councilmember Ashley Hernandez said, "Your costs can't exceed what's coming in; it just doesn't make sense. You just can't sustain that. ... We respect and love our fire department and sheriff. It's just at what point do we leave them high and dry for services that we can't pay for? That's offensive to do to them. They deserve those payments."

"We're really in a bad position," said Hernandez, and she suggested that the city manager bring back all his recommendations for more detailed council discussions. She also agreed that she didn't want to raise fees for residents.

Mayor Jeramy Chapdelaine said the initial sewer rate study from 2013 predicted a deficit if rates weren't raised periodically over time, so the "decisions of the past eventually catch up."

Chapdelaine made it clear that the city appreciates the services of the police and fire departments. He said, "To not make a decision would be extremely irresponsible," because if the city is unable to pay for services and ends up in debt to these other agencies, "that could be the difference between fiscal restructuring and actual bankruptcy."

"It's a pretty dire situation. These are hard conversations," said Chapdelaine, but he was clear that the city will work with their county partners to find solutions.

Councilmember Santana continued to express confusion about the sewer fund deficit and asked about the possibility of conducting a new rate study.

Mayor Chapdelaine said with the city's financial situation, they are unlikely to afford the cost of a rate study at this time. City Manager Moody added that a rate study would certainly recommend increasing the rates.

During public comments, Patrol Captain Jason Piazza said the Sutter County Sheriff's Department understands the position the city is in and wants to be good partners by negotiating a reasonable contract that maintains public safety.

Councilmember Woten made a motion to send notices to the police and fire departments, along with the establishment of an ad hoc committee to oversee any renegotiations. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pamma and approved 4-1, with Santana dissenting.

The council also reached general consensus to direct City Manager Moody to look at all the other options in more detail and bring recommendations back for council consideration. ★

## MEMORIAL

**WILLIAM "BILL" FRANCIS THEISS • 12/07/1949— 10/04/2025**

William "Bill" Francis Theiss, a long-time resident of Live Oak, California, passed away on Saturday morning, October 4, 2025, at the age of 75. Bill was born on December 7, 1949, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. As one of eleven children in a military family, Bill started school in Alaska, graduated from Brentwood High School in New York, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (Cal) with a degree in Plant Genetics. He was a supervisor at Educational Testing Service for many years. He became an instructor at various technical and computer schools, ending with American River College. Bill's many talents led him to be the handyman/gardener at Tropicana Gardens near the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he met the love of his life, Janet Dewey. Bill always said that the day he met Janet, he knew that he would marry her. After a courtship involving long bus trips, dates at a Las Vegas wedding chapel, they married on June 27, 1976, in Gridley, California. Bill and Janet lived in the



Bay Area, and ultimately relocated to Live Oak, California to be near family. Bill enjoyed all forms of gardening and was a prize-winning orchid grower, a member of the San Francisco Orchid Society and the Sutter Buttes Garden Club, and was a Master Gardener. He also loved sharing his love of science fiction, comics, animals, and critters with everyone. Bill is preceded in death by his loving wife, Janet, son, Martin Michael Theiss; parents,

Michael and Theresa Theiss; and brother Albert Theiss. He is survived by his brothers Michael (Barbara); John (Bonnie); James (Eileen); Paul (Nadia) and Martin (Donna) Theiss, and his sisters Suzanna (Peter) Novak; Theresa (Joseph) Clark; Frieda Clayton and Catherine (Louie) Gonzalez. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law Martin Dewey and Bruce (Julie) Dewey, as well as many loving nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and grandchildren. Visitation will take place on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, between 4-6 PM, with a Rosary from 6-7 PM, at Ullrey Memorial Chapel, 817 Almond Street, Yuba City CA 95991. The Mass of the Resurrection will be on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 11 AM at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 222 Clark Avenue, Yuba City CA 95991. A reception will follow the Mass. Donations may be made to the Sutter Buttes Garden Club, the San Francisco Orchid Society or St. Isidore Catholic Church. Bill's kindness and fascination with life and plants will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

# Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

After seeing the statement "Take Action for Butterflies," I saw a question "Where do the butterflies and moths go in the winter?" I knew the answer, but it still motivated me to think about an overlooked issue in most people's yards. The answer is "right underfoot." Many butterflies and moths overwinter in the disintegrating

leaves as caterpillars, chrysalises, or even in their adult forms, depending on the species. When leaves are raked and put into yard waste up to 45% of a yard's butterflies are thrown away! I've mentioned in past articles my battle of whether to leave the fallen leaves. I have come to a compromise that works well for me and it could work for you.

When I left the leaves for a long time they got rained on and turned to muck which was not a pleasant thing to deal with later when everything is mucky and hard to clean. I now choose preselected areas to allow fallen leaves to rot to their content. There are places in every yard that can be dedicated to allowing rot to happen.

You save the butterflies, moths and other creepy crawlies and you enrich the soil in those areas as the leaves turn into compost. I challenge all of you to become caped crusaders for butterflies by finding at least one small space where the life cycle of butterflies and moths can proceed in their natural habitat, rotting leaves. Sometimes we think change has to happen on a large scale when in reality each of us can aid the habitat of our yards in simple small ways. Put on that colorful butterfly wing cape and become a warrior for *buggy* survival. Or in other words leave some small area in your yards piled with leaves and know you are helping to save the environment. ★

# Food & Farm NEWS

## Organic Rice Sector Suffers Growing Pains

Despite strong demand for organic food products, some California organic rice farmers have struggled to compete with imports that have depressed prices. As a result, some organic growers in the Sacramento Valley said they don't expect domestic production of organic rice to expand, at least in the near future. "Organic is definitely crashing and burning in California," said Christopher Lopes, who farms regenerative organic rice with his father, Bruce, near Princeton in Colusa County. They pointed to imports from Argentina and Southeast Asia, which have flooded the market with inexpensive organic rice. The father-son team had been growing for a Sacramento Valley rice mill, which told them just before planting there would be no contracts for organic rice this year. In California, organic rice represents about 3.5%, or 21,000 acres, of the state's total rice acreage of more than 500,000 this season.

## Backlash Mounts Against Proposition 50 in Rural California

With Californians beginning this week to cast their votes on Proposition 50, groups representing rural constituents are pushing back against the ballot measure, which would allow the state Legislature to draw new congressional maps. The proposition was crafted by California Democrats—and championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom—in response to President Donald Trump urging Texas and other Republican-controlled states to redraw their congressional maps

to benefit Republicans. California's proposed map aims to benefit Democrats largely by breaking up several rural districts and attaching the splintered voting blocks to urban-dominated districts. "Urban populations already have the loudest voice and the most representation in California politics, while rural communities struggle to be heard on important issues," California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass said. "This measure worsens that imbalance."

## California Farm Leadership Class Travels Out of State to Widen Perspective

Leadership Farm Bureau, a cohort of eight agricultural professionals developing leadership skills through a program run by the California Farm Bureau, traveled last month to Arkansas and Tennessee to learn from farmers and ranchers in a different part of the country. The tour included visits to fish, cotton and peanut farms, a cattle ranch and a cotton gin, and the Port of Memphis, which is one of the largest inland ports in the U.S. "The three-day trip also allowed us to see how Farm Bureau plays a critical role in making a positive impact in our industry, whether through outreach, financing or advocacy," Leadership Farm Bureau class members Tharvin Gill of Sutter County and John Tamayo of Imperial County wrote in an Ag Alert® article. "These experiences inspired us to return to the Golden State and be even stronger advocates for California farmers and ranchers." ★

# Butte County Sheriff's Office Conducting Death Investigation

## Butte County Sheriff's Office News Release

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - On Oct. 7, at approximately 5:07 a.m., the Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) received a 911 call from a citizen at the Feather River near the intersection of Hutchins Drive and East Gridley Road. The caller reported that a friend had fallen into the river.

Butte County Sheriff's Office deputies, Butte County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue personnel, and Cal-Fire personnel immediately responded

and initiated a search for the individual, identified as Chansamay XamOUNTY, age 24, of Oroville.

At approximately 6:16 a.m., Cal-Fire swift water technicians located XamOUNTY submerged in the Feather River. XamOUNTY was recovered and placed on a Butte County Sheriff's Office boat, where Search and Rescue personnel and Cal-Fire personnel immediately began lifesaving efforts. XamOUNTY was transported to Orchard Hospital in Gridley. Despite extensive

lifesaving efforts, he did not survive.

Butte County Sheriff's Office is conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding XamOUNTY's death. Initial findings indicate that XamOUNTY was an associate of the citizen who made the 911 call.

The investigation remains ongoing, and an autopsy is scheduled to be performed later this week. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Butte County Sheriff's Office at 530-538-7671. ★

# Preliminary Hearing Held in Palermo Park Hate Crime Threats Case

## Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - On Oct. 1 a preliminary hearing was held in Butte County Superior Court for a man from Oroville facing felony hate crime charges related to a racially motivated incident that took place at Palermo Park in August this year.

The preliminary hearing was held in the case of Orrin Colbourn, 39, who was charged with making criminal threats and committing a hate crime. After hearing testimony from the investigating deputy and the victim, Judge Michael Deems ordered Colbourn held to answer on all charges.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges stem from an incident on Aug. 29, at Palermo Park, where Colbourn allegedly confronted a mother and her two young children, ages 2 and 9. He reportedly threatened to kill them while shouting racial slurs and proclaiming "white power." Other park visitors reported that Colbourn told the mother and children to "go back to Mexico" and declared that he "ran the

park" in a manner meant to intimidate.

At the hearing today, the mother testified that Colbourn's threats and hostile words left her fearful for her and her children's safety and deprived them of their right to enjoy a public space free from intimidation. A Butte County Sheriff's deputy also testified about his investigation of the incident.

Ramsey emphasized the importance of protecting public safety and community spaces.

"Our parks and public spaces belong to everyone," said Ramsey. "When hate and threats are used to drive families away, it's not just the victims who are harmed — it's the whole community. That is why we will prosecute these crimes to the fullest."

Colbourn remains in custody at the Butte County Jail without bail due to a parole violation stemming from previous felony convictions last year for auto theft and hit-and-run causing serious injury. He will next appear in court on Oct. 15, to set his jury trial on the hate crime charges.

If convicted on all charges, Colbourn could face a maximum of three years and eight months in state prison. ★

# Oroville Resident Arrested for Possession of Child Pornography

## Butte County Sheriff's Office News Release

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - In March 2025, the Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) initiated an investigation following a Cyber Tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding a suspect, later identified as Shea Ruyle, age 46, of Oroville, suspected of downloading child pornography.

Detectives conducted an approximately seven-month investigation, during which multiple search warrants were

authored. Through the investigation, detectives determined that Ruyle had been residing on Royal Oaks Drive in Oroville but had recently moved to 10th Street in Oroville.

On Sept. 13, detectives contacted Ruyle in Oroville and seized his cellular telephone pursuant to a search warrant. The device was forensically examined as authorized by the warrant. Detectives discovered over 600 images and videos of child pornography on the cellular device. Some of the images and videos contained people engaging in

sexual acts with animals. Detectives also discovered evidence that Ruyle was manufacturing videos depicting people engaged in sexual activity with an animal.

Following the discovery of this evidence, detectives recontacted Ruyle in Oroville and placed him under arrest for a felony count of possession of child pornography.

This investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact the Butte County Sheriff's Office detectives at 530-538-7671. ★

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The real news was not the 130-122 loss to the Portland Trailblazers in the 2nd pre-season game of the year, but rather the unexpected loss of Keegan Murray to an injury that will place him on the sidelines for what may be up to 6 weeks.

Murray tore the UCL ligament in his left thumb, and it's likely Sacramento Kings fans won't see any 3-points from him until late December at best.

For a roster that is not deep, the loss of Murray and in particular his improved defense is a crushing blow, and it leaves a mystery as it relates to what player or players will be tested to play his position. Already, pundits are conjuring thoughts of Issac Jones, Dario Saric, Keon Ellis, and even rookie Nique Clifford who would be asked to play out of his natural position.

The one bright spot in the young pre-season has been 1st round draft choice Nique Clifford, who once again scored in double figures against Portland, and looked more like a veteran than the rookie he is.

Both Drew Eubanks and Dario Saric acquitted themselves well as Saric put up 14 points and Eubanks chipped in with 11 of his own.

Maxine Reynaud had only one field goal but added 5 rebounds and 4 assists to make his presence felt. No one has forgotten that Reynaud is 7 feet tall, and if Doug Christie can develop this big man, he could be an x-factor this season.

No question the bench is going to be the key ingredient if the Kings are going to taste success in the upcoming campaign, and all these players will need to bring their best efforts if Sacramento expects to be more than a 500 team.

Veteran Zach Lavine continues to shine with another solid performance against the Trailblazers, and alongside Domantas Sabonis, it seems clear that Lavine has fully settled into his new role as the top shooter for the Sacramento Kings. I expect DeMar DeRozan to provide much of the same confidence.

Losing Murray would appear to be a disaster, but it's at times like these that opportunities present themselves, and it could just such a moment for someone on this team to step up and make a statement for the future in a positive way.

Famously Lou Gehrig came off the bench for the Yankees replacing Wally Pipp who had a headache, providing one of the greatest baseball players of all time to have his moment in history.

While I don't expect anything as dramatic as the Lou Gehrig moment to happen, someone needs to step up and provide the Kings with an answer to losing Keegan Murray.

One other note is that the loss of a proven starter will likely spur the front office to increase the tenor of talks on the trade/acquisition front, and one likely candidate is the much-discussed Russell Westbrook.

Not to be missed in the pre-season action is the memory of last season in which the Kings went winless and didn't win their first game until the start of the regular season. This led to a tepid start to the season, and eventually the dismissal of head coach Mike Brown.

I'm a firm believer that winning begets winning, and Doug Christie needs to find a way to win some pre-season games and erase the memory of the past. His focus on tenacious defense although not producing wins in the first two contests will undoubtedly set a tone, and without question must become a staple as to who the Sacramento Kings are as a team.

I yearn for the day that opposing teams look at Sacramento as the place they would rather avoid, and the Golden One Arena to be house of horrors. That only happens when frenetic defense is the mantra of the team, and home court advantage needs to become a reality for the Kings and their die-hard fans!

Look for an acquisition of some kind Kings fans, and probably sooner rather than later.

This is not a time for discouragement Kings fans, but rather of rabid support, and that's something that Sacramento has long been good at.

Stay tuned and with optimism Kings fans, because it's just possible that we may experience a Wally Pipp moment in time, and oh how welcome that would be!

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgarrisriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgarrisriskingsfan@gmail.com). ★

## Ask DR. UNIVERSE

### Why Do We Age?

- Ines, 17, Tunisia

Dear Ines,  
I have gray fur. But sometimes I think it's getting grayer—like my human friends' hair does as they get older.

I asked my friend Jiyue Zhu about that. He's a biochemist at Washington State University.

He told me it's a mystery.

"We still don't completely comprehend this," Zhu said. "It's an active area of research."

Aging seems to be related to the way cells duplicate.

DNA is a set of instructions for making your body. You keep a copy of your DNA folded up inside each of your cells.

All those cells have different life spans. Some, like your skin cells, get replaced often. Some, like your heart cells, last your whole life or only duplicate rarely.

Your cells copy their DNA every time they duplicate. One protein unzips your DNA. Another protein zooms along it, building a copy of the DNA.

Usually that works well. But it's not perfect. Sometimes errors happen during duplication.

"Over time, errors accumulate," Zhu said. "Even with a very low error rate, if you duplicate cells millions or billions of times, those errors build up."

Most of the time, your body sees those errors and fixes them. But some fall through the cracks.

When enough mistakes or other damage build up, the cell may trigger senescence. That's like retirement for a cell. It stops doing its job. It stops duplicating.

But it can cause problems—like sending out signals that harm healthy cells or making your immune system work hard to clear those retired cells out. Older people have more retired cells than younger people do.

The second thing we know about aging is that the ends of your DNA take on a specific

kind of damage. They're like the plastic bits at the ends of your shoelaces. Without those caps, the shoelaces fray and become less useful.

The end caps on your DNA are called telomeres. The replication protein machine that copies your DNA can't grab on at the tip of the telomere. So, it doesn't copy a few bits of telomere DNA between the tip and the spot where it latches on. That means each time a cell duplicates, the telomere gets a tiny bit shorter.

That ensures that the important DNA in the middle always gets copied. But those telomeres don't last forever. When they get too short, senescence happens.

Aging also has to do with itty bitty markers on your DNA called epigenetic modifications. They tell your body which sections of DNA to turn on or turn off.

Over time, those markers wear down. Maybe one marker starts out super pointy and then smooths out over time. It's like how the soles of your sneaker wear down and lose their tread.

Scientists can look at those markers and tell how old the cell is, based on how worn down they are.

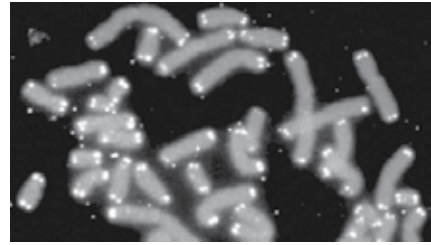
All those things—mistakes that happen during duplication, telomeres that shorten, and markers that wear out— seem to contribute to aging. Stress and problems in the environment might speed those things up.

But aging is important to us as a group. "There's an evolutionary reason we age," Zhu said. "It leaves room for the next generation. That's how we evolve."

And population-wise, that's something to cell-ebrate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe



Scientists can stain DNA so they can see different parts under a microscope. Here the glowing white dots are telomeres. Weirdly, some animals like mice have longer telomeres but shorter lives. Dr. Zhu is studying mouse telomeres to figure out why that is. Photo: NASA

## High Prices at the Pump

Refinery Fire Spotlights California's Gas Supply Crunch



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Thankfully, last week's explosion and fire at California's second largest refinery, Chevron's El Segundo plant, was not an environmental catastrophe. But it could have serious economic and political impact.

It occurred as Gov. Gavin Newsom and other Democratic figures were in the midst of a 180-degree political pirouette: a shift from denouncing makers of gasoline as price gouging polluters, to beseeching them to continue production.

California once had dozens of refineries, but today nine are still producing gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel for airlines and military warplanes. Two have announced plans to shut down within a few months.

Valero's refinery and the Phillips 66 plant in Southern California together represent about 17% of the state's refining capacity, according to the California Energy Commission. State legislators reportedly have offered Valero state subsidies to keep its Benicia refinery in operation, fearing closure would raise Californians' already high gas prices.

Chevron's damaged El Segundo plant, if closed, would double the loss

in refinery capacity to more than a third of the state's total, causing a supply crunch that would assuredly result in higher pump prices.

California's 30-million-plus cars and light trucks average 340 billion miles of travel each year and burn 13 billion gallons of gas, all but a trickle of which comes from the nine refineries. There are no pipelines to bring in fuel from other states, and importing gasoline from Asia or the Middle East via tankers is fraught with uncertainty and high costs.

Newsom, backed by fellow Democrats in the Legislature, spent months excoriating refiners for high prices, even though the state's very high fuel taxes create much of the gap between prices in California and those in other states. Newsom called a special session of the Legislature to pass legislation that he said would penalize profits deemed to be too high.

The official criticism seemed to meld with the state's declared intention to phase out gasoline-fueled cars in favor of those powered by electricity, thus shutting down oil production and gasoline refineries. Newsom's administration has said that by 2035 the sale of new gas-powered cars would be banned.

The evolution Newsom envisions, however, also requires the state to continue some refining until the last of the state's gasoline-powered cars are permanently parked, raising questions about how the change would be managed.

The Phillips 66 and Valero announcements forced the issue. The state's

politicians realized that a rapid decline in refinery capacity could send gas prices soaring, thereby creating a political backlash. Newsom's evident presidential ambitions would be hammered by a sharp price spike.

Accordingly, in the last days of the legislative session, Newsom and legislators backtracked, passing measures to boost petroleum production. More recently, Newsom signed legislation to make gas with 15% ethanol available, saying it would lower prices by up to 20 cents a gallon. Apparently, legislators also have been feeling out Valero about some state subsidies for its Benicia plant, but so far they've had no success.

Chevron, whose refineries in El Segundo and Richmond have about a third of the state's refining capacity, moved its headquarters from California to Texas last year and has made no secret about its disdain for California's anti-petroleum policies, while dropping hints that it may close one of its two plants.

The extent of fire damage at Chevron's El Segundo refinery, and the effect on gasoline supply and prices, are still unclear. However, it's a reminder of how tight California's gas supply has become and how cataclysmic the closure of its refineries could be — economically and politically.

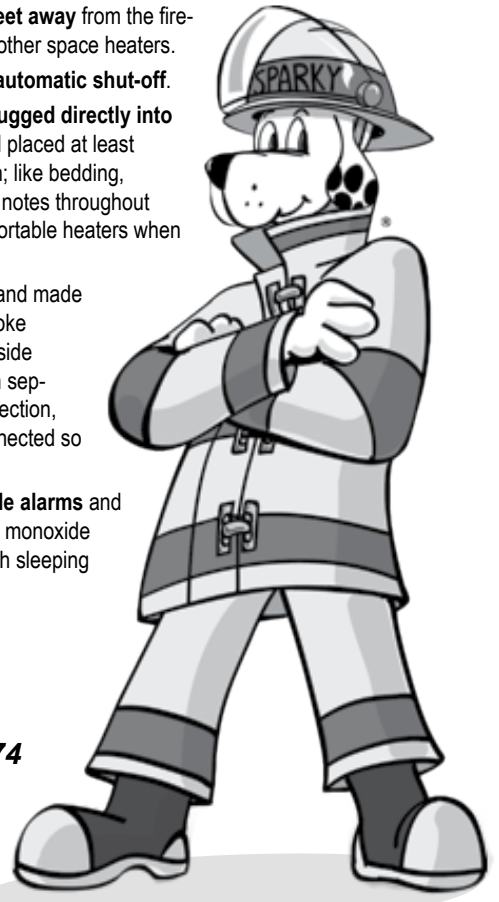
Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

## SPARKY'S CORNER

### Staying Ahead of the Winter Freeze

Check These 10 Tips Off Your List And Get Ahead Of The Winter Freeze.

- Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
- Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires form built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood.
- Our fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- We have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
- Our children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off.
- Our portable space heaters will be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn, like bedding, paper, walls and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
- We have tested our smoke alarms and made sure they are working. (You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)
- We have tested our carbon monoxide alarms and made sure they are working. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)



Thank You, and Be Safe!!

Sparky the Dog  
Gridley Fire Station 74

# COMICS & PUZZLES

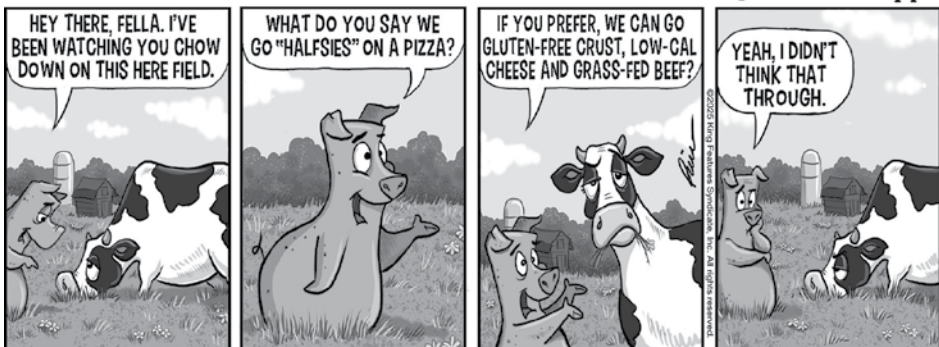
The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Table is smaller. 3. Newspaper is longer. 4. Glove is a catcher's mitt. 5. Number on shirt is smaller. 6. Curtain is wider on left side.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN and BEAR IT.



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • SCARY MOVIES

### CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Awestruck
  - Paid player
  - Precedes pedia
  - Oxen connector
  - Sonic sound
  - \_\_\_\_ Dondarrion, "Game of Thrones" Lord of Blackhaven
  - Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)
  - \*2025 Pete Davidson horror flick, "The \_\_\_\_"
  - Wear away
  - "Movie director of "Knock at the Cabin" fame
  - Manage without help
  - Subway coin
  - Boar's mate
  - \*Jordan Peele's directorial debut (2017, 2 words)
  - Richard Gere in 1980 movie, pl.
  - Bit of binary code
  - A way to steal gas
  - \*"It's \_\_\_\_" (1974)
  - Estrogen producer
  - Have a bug
  - Glue on, e.g.
  - Comme ci, comme ça
  - Nice to look at
  - Opposite of VSW
  - Opposite of #40
- Across**
- Cordwood units
  - The night before
  - Warm down-slope wind
  - Blood component
  - \*Trip to Sweden gone wrong (2019)
  - Like certain radiant energy
  - Pakistani tongue
  - "Ill at \_\_\_\_"
  - Not together
  - Ooze
  - Bulgarian, e.g.
  - Like certain grape beverage
  - Get it wrong
  - Shakira's don't lie?

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## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000644**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Horn-Owen Construction, 494 E Street, Biggs, CA 91917  
Horn, Trevor Lee, PO Box 914, Biggs, CA 95917  
Date filed in Butte County: September 2, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 2025  
HORN 10-17-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000671**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Party Rentals By HC, 35 Nelsier Place, Oroville, CA 95966  
Castaneda, Hailey Ray, 35 Nelsier Place, Oroville, CA 95966  
Date filed in Butte County: September 10, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 2025  
PARTY 10-17-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000678**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Auto Doctor, 2144 Park Avenue, Chico, CA 95928  
Trevor Stone Enterprises Inc, 2144 Park Avenue, Chico, CA 95928  
Date filed in Butte County: September 12, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: September 12, 2025  
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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: Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 2025  
AUTO 10-17-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000688**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: McCarts Dill Pickles, 15588 Meridian Road, Chico, CA 95973  
Michelle A Maxfield, 15588 Meridian Road, Chico, CA 95973  
Date filed in Butte County: September 16, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: September 16, 2025  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 2025  
MCCARTS 10-17-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000687**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Everyday Vietnamese Cuisine, 951 Nord Avenue #1, Chico, CA 95926  
Shuk Ching Lo, 1001 W Sacramento Avenue #18, Chico, CA 95926  
Date filed in Butte County: September 9, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 27, 2019  
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: Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 2025  
TREAT 11-7-25

ing business as: Gridley 1 Stop, 1675 CA-99, Gridley, CA 95948  
Angad V&S Corp, 2211 Able Court, Sacramento, CA 95835  
Date filed in Butte County: August 20, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025  
GRIDLEY 10-24-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000642**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Small Town Auto Repair, 822 Washington Street, Gridley, CA 95948  
Isidro Gonzalez, 822 Washington Street, Gridley, CA 95948  
Date filed in Butte County: August 29, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025  
SMALL 10-31-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000715**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Oroville Bathroom Cleaning, 1590 High Street Apt A, Oroville, CA 95965  
Cha Lee, 1590 High Street Apt A, Oroville, CA 95965  
Date filed in Butte County: October 1, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025  
OROVILLE 10-31-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000727**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Back Roads Bee, 1549 Hemlock Street, Chico, CA 95928  
Nail, Kristy Lynn, 1549 Hemlock Street, Chico, CA 95928  
Date filed in Butte County: October 6, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 2025  
BACK 11-7-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000709**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Treat Your Shelf Bookshop, 7057 Hewitt Avenue, Palermo, CA 95968  
Startene K Pesnell, 7057 Hewitt Avenue, Palermo, CA 95968  
Date filed in Butte County: September 26, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 2025  
TREAT 11-7-25

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #25CV03227  
Petitioner Judit Alexandra Solano and Christian Alejandro Cardenas Herrera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Eliana Jade Cardenas-Solano to Eliana Jade Cardenas.  
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 29, 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 September 8, 2025  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 2025  
HERRERA 10-17-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #25CV03417  
Petitioner Marisa Wilson-James filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Licette Valetine Montgomery to Licette Sunflower Marisa Hayes.  
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 November 5, 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 September 18, 2025  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025  
JAMES 10-24-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #25CV03515  
Petitioner Citilaly Silvas Esquivel filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Brian Cruz-Esquivel to Brian Cruz-Silvas.  
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 November 12, 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 September 22, 2025  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025  
ESQUIVEL 10-31-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #25CV03596  
Petitioner Megan Leslie Diemart filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Megan Leslie Diemart to Meg Leslie Porter.  
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 November 12, 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 September 23, 2025  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 2025  
DIEMART 11-7-25

## TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE  
TS No. CA-25-1017171-CL  
Order No.: FIN-25007093 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/10/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication

of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): Nicole M Riddles Recorded: 6/21/2004 as Instrument No. 2004-0037355 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of BUTTE County, California; Date of Sale: 11/12/2025 at 3:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Main Entrance of the Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$112,944.59 The purported property address is: 905 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, GRIDLEY, CA 95948-2206 Assessor's Parcel No.: 010-221-014 Legal Description: Please be advised that the legal description set forth on the Deed of Trust is in error. The legal description of the property secured by the Deed of Trust is more properly set forth and made part of Exhibit "A" as attached hereto. The Easterly 110 feet, with lines parallel to lot lines, of the North half of Block 2, as shown on that certain map entitled, "Map of Servis Subdivision No. 1, adjoining the City of Gridley, Butte County, California being a portion of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 31, TWP 18 N., R. 3 E., M.D.B. & M.", which map was recorded in the Office of the Recorder of the County of Butte, State of California, on April 8, 1924, in Book 9 of Maps, at Page(s) 32. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-25-1017171-CL. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 619-645-7711, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-25-1017171-CL to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS: For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e)

of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-25-1017171-CL and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-25-1017171-CL IDSPub #0250469 10/10/2025 10/17/2025 10/24/2025  
GRIDLEY HERALD 10-24-25  
T.S. No.: 25-14339-100 File # LTTS25000051 Loan No.: \*\*\*7661 Notice of Trustee's Sale Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing (hereinafter referred to as 'Deed of Trust') You are in default under a deed of trust dated 5/14/2018. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceeding against you, you should contact a lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Original Trustor(s): Retail Site Specialists, LLC, a California limited liability company and Celtic Properties, a California general partnership Duly Appointed Trustee: WT Capital Lender Services, a California corporation Recorded 6/8/2018, as Instrument No. 2018-0019553 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Butte County, California Date of Sale: 11/3/2025 at 3:30 PM Place of Sale: On the steps of the County Courthouse, Number 1 Court Street, Oroville, Ca 95965 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$2,721,579.92 Estimated Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1583 State Highway 99, Gridley, Ca Legal Description: The land referred to herein below is situated in the City of Gridley, County of Butte, State of California and is described as follows: All that certain real property described as a portion of lots 23 and 24, as shown on that certain map entitled, "Norman Tract", which map was recorded in the office of the recorder of the county of Butte, State of California, on April 11, 1908, in book 6 of maps, at page(s) 20, lying in the northeast quarter of section 1, township 17 north, range 2 east, M.D.B. & M., being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of said lot 23, said corner being located on the south right-of-way line of Magnolia Street, 33.00 feet southerly of centerline, according to said map, said corner being the true point of beginning for the herein described parcel of land; thence south 00 deg. 17' 49" east, along the west line of said lot 23, 255.00 feet, to a one-half inch rebar tagged L.S. 4208; thence north 89 deg. 24' 35" east, 223.14 feet, to a point on the west line of that certain 7.00 foot wide strip of land deeded to the City of Gridley by deed dated March 31, 1939, and recorded in book 223, page 75, official records, said point being marked by a one-half inch rebar tagged L.S. 4208; thence north 00 deg. 17' 49" west, along the west line of said strip, 250.67 feet, to a point on the south-westerly boundary of that parcel of land described in deed to

the State of California, recorded August 17, 1973, in book 1856, page 607, official records, said point being on a non-tangent curve concave to the southwest, having a radius of 19.00 feet, a central angle of 39 deg. 27' 36", and a radial line that bears south 38 deg. 52' 11" west; thence northwesterly along said curve an arc distance of 13.09 feet, to a point on the south right of way line of Magnolia Street, from which point the northeast corner of said lot 24 bears north 89 deg. 24' 35" east, 19.10 feet; thence south 89 deg. 24' 35" west, along the north line of lots 24 and 23, 211.04 feet, to the point of beginning. The above described parcel is pursuant to a boundary line modification approved by the County of Butte, City of Gridley, by deed recorded July 31, 2003, serial No. 2003-50846. Except therefrom that portion of said land conveyed to the State of California, Department of Transportation, as set forth and described in that certain document recorded October 2, 2023 as instrument no. 2023-0026644 of official records. A.P.N.: 010-190-033 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. In the event that the Deed of Trust described in this Notice of Trustee's Sale is secured by real property containing one to four single-family residences, the following notices are provided pursuant to the provisions of Civil Code section 2924f. Notice to potential bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Bidders at the trustee auction must make cashier's checks payable to WT Capital. Third party cashier's checks will not be accepted. Notice to property owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 559-228-8393 or visit this internet website [www.wtcap.com](http://www.wtcap.com), using the file number assigned to this case 25-14339-100. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to tenant: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (559) 228-8393, or visit this internet website [www.wtcap.com](http://www.wtcap.com), using the file number assigned to this case 25-14339-100 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: October 1, 2025 WT Capital Lender Services, a California corporation 7522 North Colonial Avenue, Suite 111 Fresno, California 93711 (559) 228-8393 WTCap.com By Nate Kucera, Chief Executive Officer (IFS# 41119 10/10/25, 10/17/25, 10/24/25)  
GRIDLEY HERALD 10-24-25

# 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, Oct. 17:** Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) Ladies' night out movie, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments served; men and teens invited too. (G)

**Saturday, Oct. 18:** Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

**Tuesday, Oct. 21:** Creative writing group, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your imagination to life by joining us for a hands-on afternoon of LEGO fun. All are welcome to attend, and kids under 8 need to be accompanied by an adult. (B)

**Wednesday, Oct. 22:** 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, Oct. 23:** Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Pumpkin painting, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Paint and decorate a pumpkin for your home. Available while supplies last. (B) Dungeons and Dragons teen night, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (G)

**Friday, Oct. 24:** Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

**Saturday, Oct. 25:** Teen lock-in: Five nights at the library, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We'll be showing "Five Nights at Freddy's" and serving nachos. Ages 13 to 18 only, register by Oct. 23. (G)

## Continuing through Oct. 31

### Book Family Farm Old-Fashioned Pumpkin Patch

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 153 Heavy Horse Lane, Durham. Play on the farm playground, take time just to hang out, enjoy our scarecrow displays, farm animals, hay maze, and of course, pumpkins! Call 530-342-4375 for more information.

### Johnson Farm

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays only, at 113 Higgins Ave., Gridley. Enjoy produce grown on our small family farm using sustainable farming methods. Please bring your own take home bags for your produce. For more information, contact johnsonupickfarm@yahoo.com

### Harvest Festival at Max's Miracle Ranch

3476 Smith Avenue, Biggs. Max's Miracle Ranch is a working California farmstead, orchard, and entertainment enterprise. Our Foundation has been formed to provide hope and direction to families with special children dealing with heart defects, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses. Our Pumpkin Patch is one of our fundraising events throughout the year. Stop in and pick your own pumpkins or choose from ones we've already picked for you. Take home some fresh apple cider, ride the train through the orchards and pumpkin patch, go on a hayride, or just enjoy the people and animals at the Ranch. Call 530-354-7168 for hours and more information.

### Weekends in October

#### Autumn Fest – Pumpkin Patch

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Patrick Ranch Museum, 10381 Midway, Durham. Enjoy u-pick pumpkins and sunflowers, tractor rides, music, crafts and more. More information at 530-342-4359.

## Friday, Oct. 17 through Sunday, Oct. 19 and Friday, Oct. 24 through Sunday, Oct. 26

### Haunted House

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night at Patrick Ranch Museum, 10381 Midway, Durham. Our Midway Café will be open with food, snacks, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Tickets \$12 available online at [www.patrick-ranchmuseum.org/events](http://www.patrick-ranchmuseum.org/events) or at the door.

### Friday, Oct. 17

### FUR – Friends United in Rescue's Golf Tournament

7 a.m. check-in, 8 a.m. shotgun start at Bidwell Golf Course, 3199 Golf Course Road, Chico. Join FUR's first ever golf tournament fundraiser, which will help us earn funds to continue our lifesaving work with Trap/Neuter/Return, assistance with low-cost spay and neuter, and adopting kittens into loving homes. Ticket price includes breakfast, a round of golf, lunch, and terrific prizes. Raffle tickets and silent auction will also be available. Register at [www.golfbidwellpark.com](http://www.golfbidwellpark.com)

### 17th Annual Trivia Bee for Literacy

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Sierra Nevada Brewery, 1075 E. 20th Street Chico. You won't want to miss out on the upcoming Trivia Bee event in support of Butte County Library Literacy Services. Teams will compete for the prestigious title of "2025 Trivia Champions of Butte County". Sponsor a team or come out and root for your favorite team and play along in the audience. Funds raised will be used to provide learning materials, resources, and support for adults and children in our community who are working so hard to improve their basic reading and writing skills. Call 530-552-5650 for information on registering a team. Spectator tickets can be purchased online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

### Fall for the Arts Gala

Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Chico Women's Club, 592 E. 3rd Street, Chico. Join us for this celebration of Chico's amazing arts organizations and a fundraiser for city arts projects. There will be a silent auction, no-host bar, and light refreshments. All proceeds seed the fund for new public-facing projects led by the City of Chico's Arts Commission. Tickets and more information at [www.monca.org](http://www.monca.org)

### Saturday, Oct. 18

### Fall Fest at Hodge's Family Nursery

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 9681 Midway, Durham. Bring your family or come solo for a fun-filled day of vendors, face painting, raffles, and more.

### Sunday, Oct. 19

### Halloweentown at Meriam Park

4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Barn at Meriam Park, 1935 Market Place, Chico. For an afternoon, we'll bring back the 90's Halloween nostalgia we all miss. Let's be kids for a night and enjoy live music, local vendors and makers, Halloween-themed photo opportunities, and more. Free admission and parking.

### Halloween Frights & Lights Parade

7 p.m. in downtown Oroville. Join us for a spooktacular celebration of the season. Watch as the night comes alive with illuminated floats, costumed creatures, and festive displays. Bring your family

and friends for a night of frightful fun and dazzling sights. Brought to you by Oroville Show & Stroll. More information at 530-403-3504.

### Wednesday, Oct. 22

### Free Pumpkin Paint Night

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Building at 10200 O Street, Live Oak. Join us for this great family event. There will be candy, pumpkin painting and a movie, brought to you by the Live Oak Parks and Recreation Department.

### Thursday, Oct. 23

### Halloween Party

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Carrier Square Shopping Center, 2325 Myers St., Oroville. The community is invited to join in a spooktacular evening of fun. This free-to-attend event will feature a variety of festive activities and entertainment for families of all ages. Costumes are highly encouraged. While admission is free, Carrier Square will be accepting donations during the event, with 100% of proceeds going to support the Butte County Food Bank. For more information, call 916-235-9396.

### Halloween Bike Night

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sierra Steel Harley-Davidson, 1501 Mangrove Ave., Chico. Bring your best costume, your decorated ride, and your friends for a night of fun, food, and Halloween spirit. Call 530-893-1918 for more information.

### Friday, Oct. 24

### Movies in the Park: The Nightmare Before Christmas

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at DeGarmo Park Pavilion, 3428 Esplanade, Chico. Celebrate the season with this spooky-fun movie screening. Wear your costumes and enjoy this Halloween-meets-Christmas classic. Come early to enjoy a costume contest, scavenger hunt, face painting, games, and more. Local food trucks will be serving up tasty eats and drinks, and there will be free movie theater popcorn when the movie starts at dusk. Presented by Chico Area Recreation & Park District (CARD).

### Quota of Gridley's 21st Annual Tasting Event

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Gridley Veterans Memorial Building, 267 Sycamore St. Featuring local wines and beer tastings, homemade root beer and cider, and grazing tables. You'll also enjoy auctions, games, and raffles. \$30 per person, tickets available from any Quotarian or online with the link on Quota's Facebook page.

### Saturday, Oct. 25

### CLA Trunk or Treat

5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Christian Life Assembly, 1526 Humble Ave. Want to join the fun? Decorate your car and hand out candy while we all enjoy free food, games, a costume contest and lots of family fun.

### 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 Gridley Veterans Hall, 267 Sycamore St.

**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 Oct. 28 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 Oct. 28 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

**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. Contact [literacy@buttecounty.net](mailto:literacy@buttecounty.net) for more information.

**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> The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 20.

**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, Nov. 5. 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 Nov. 5.

**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.

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group** meets the second and fourth Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. at the Gridley Recreation Department, 194 Washington Street. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

## 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.

**First Baptist Church of Live Oak Food Pantry**, 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 2480 Pennington Road, Live Oak. Next distribution will be Sunday, Oct. 26. Call 530-695-2894 for more information.

**Gridley Senior Food Distribution**, 801 Washington Street, Room B. Once a month, call ahead for details: 530-846-4233.

**North State Food Bank**, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. monthly at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson St., Gridley. Next distribution will be Monday, Nov. 10. 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. at Biggs Methodist Church, 441 C St., Biggs. Next distribution will be Monday, Nov. 10. 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. ★

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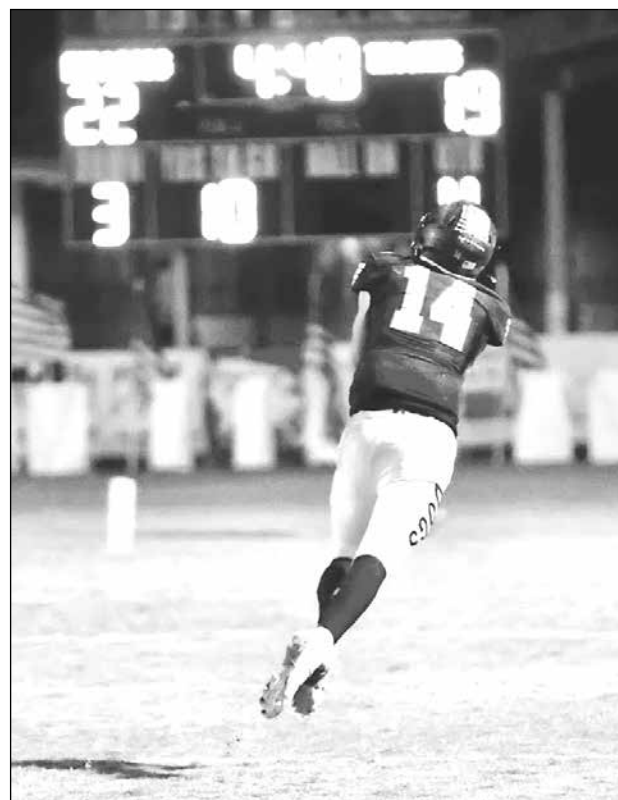
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# Gridley Tops Orland for First Time Since 2021 in League Opener



Gridley's Rafael Franco (12) and Manny Sandoval (2) makes a tackle on Friday, Oct. 10 in the Bulldogs' 29-26 win over Orland. Photo by Steven Bryla



Gridley senior wide receiver Riley Engleman (14) catches a 39-yard pass from Bulldogs' junior running back Marcus Duncan for a touchdown in their 29-26 win on Friday, Oct. 10 versus Orland. Photo by Steven Bryla

By YSBC

**GRIDLEY, CA (YSBC)** - The Gridley Bulldogs football made doubters eat their words on Friday, Oct. 10 as they beat the Orland Trojans 29-26 in the opening week of Westside League play.

This was the first time Gridley beat Orland since the 2021 and the Bulldogs set the tone of the game early on.

Gridley junior running back Marcus Duncan scored the first points of the night as he found the end zone for a six-yard touchdown rush that capped off an eight-plus minute opening drive that went 80 yards.

The Bulldogs sideline erupted with a loud roar

as the flickering lights signaled a Gridley touchdown to the crowd at the "Boneyard".

Orland didn't wait long to respond as Trojans senior quarterback Luke Shager tossed a 49-yard touchdown pass to junior tight end Flavio Melgarejo, but still trailed 8-6 after Orland's two-point attempt was denied.

Shager was effective as he completed six passes for 91 yards in the air and rushed for 149 yards on the ground in the defeat.

The Trojans took the lead halfway through the second quarter as Shager rushed the ball into the end zone from the one, but the Bulldogs quickly took the lead back as Duncan

returned a kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown and Duncan gave Gridley the lead back 15-12.

Duncan accumulated more than 160 all-purpose yards in the win and expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that the offensive line lays out the ground work for every successful run during practice.

Bulldogs head coach Daniel Zumwalt told YSBC that Duncan has contributed heavily in multiple moments this season and as a big-time rusher, he has great vision on the field.

Gridley took the three-point lead into the half. Orland had the ball to start the second half, but Shager threw an interception to

Bulldogs junior defensive back Rafael Franco.

Zumwalt expressed that the defense did a great job all night and it was a team effort.

He added that three of the starters against the Trojans were not regular starters as they were mixed into those positions throughout the week.

There were eight Bulldogs that had eight or more tackles in the victory. Gridley senior defensive end Jason Davis Jr. led the game with 14 tackles.

Zumwalt expressed that senior linebacker Saulo Ramirez is the verbal leader of the defense and energizes the team with big hits.

Ramirez had 11 tackles in the win over Orland.

On the Bulldogs only possession of the third quarter, senior quarterback Eli Punzo capped it off with a 53-yard rushing touchdown.

Punzo had 113 rushing yards in the win, but controlled the offensive flow all night for Gridley.

Punzo expressed that the victory against Orland was big in the essence as a lot of people doubted them going into the game and a goal was to prove them wrong.

"Hopefully we turned a lot of heads with this win," Punzo said.

Punzo added that it was a great win over the Trojans, but they proved to a lot of people that the Bulldogs are ready to take their game to the next level.

Shager found the end zone for the second time on the ground just inside of eight minutes remaining in the game and cut the Gridley deficit to three.

As the game clock struck with less than five minutes remaining, Punzo pitched the ball to Duncan on the right side of the field, but Duncan peeled off looking downfield for a receiver.

Duncan tossed a strike down to a streaking senior wide receiver Riley Engleman for a 39-yard touchdown pass and extended the Bulldogs lead

back to double digits.

Orland didn't give up as they answered with a last-minute touchdown in the fourth, but Gridley recovered the ensuing inside kick and ran the clock out for the win.

Punzo and Duncan told YSBC that moving forward they need to stay focused on the common goal of one opponent per week and continue bonding with their teammates at a high level.

Zumwalt said even though this was the first league game, they still have a tough schedule remaining in the final four weeks of the season.

The Bulldogs will hit the road as they are scheduled to play Oroville on Friday Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. ★



Gridley senior quarterback Eli Punzo (5) scores on a 53-yard rushing touchdown in the Bulldogs' 29-26 victory against Orland on Friday, Oct. 10. Photo by Steven Bryla



Gridley junior running back Marcus Duncan (6) rushes the ball during the Bulldogs' 29-26 victory on Friday, Oct. 10 against Orland. Photo by Steven Bryla

# Gridley Girls Tennis Shines at WSL Finals

By MPG Staff

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley Varsity Tennis team finished the 2025 season at the bottom of the Western Section League (WSL) standings, with an 0-11 record. Despite the team's challenging season, five Gridley athletes represented the school in the WSL Playoffs this past weekend, competing for a chance to advance to the North Section Finals in two weeks. The top eight singles players and the top four doubles teams from the playoffs will qualify for the next round.

Gridley's playoff roster, limited to four singles players and two doubles teams due to their last-place finish, included No. 1 Isabella Gutierrez (junior), No. 2 Shawnacy McGilvery (junior), No. 3 Aubrey Mangan (junior), and No. 4 Brooke Jones (sophomore). The team also missed the presence of No. 5 player Ali Khan, a sophomore who was unable to participate. Her teammates noted the absence of Khan's energy and attitude throughout the weekend.

The WSL tournament is structured with seeded players in brackets, based on their performance during the regular season. Orland, which finished the season in first place, held the top three seeds for singles, while Las Plumas, Corning, and Live Oak rounded out the remaining seedings. Despite finishing in last

place, Gridley's players were given a fair shot, with Gutierrez seeded ninth, while the rest of the athletes were placed by a random draw.

Brooke Jones drew Orland's No. 5 player, who represented one of the strongest teams in the league, with 25 players on their roster. Jones fought hard but ultimately lost 0-8. Coach Robert McDowell noted that Jones had made significant improvements over the season and demonstrated impressive resilience in her loss.

Aubrey Mangan's match against Las Plumas' No. 6 player was one of the longest of the opening round. The game was a nail-biter, with Mangan losing 7-9 in an 8-game ProSet, falling just short in a hard-fought battle. Mangan's dynamic two-handed backhand was a highlight of the match.

Shawnacy McGilvery, who faced Oroville's No. 1 player, began to shine for Gridley. Despite the team's earlier losses to Oroville, McGilvery defeated their top player 8-3. In their earlier meetings, Gridley had started with only two players, which left them at a disadvantage. But McGilvery's victory marked a turning point for the team. She went on to face Orland's No. 3 player, widely regarded as a strong contender for the tournament title. McGilvery lost 0-8, but her dedication to improving was evident, as she had been

practicing more power in her serve leading up to the match.

Isabella Gutierrez faced Oroville's No. 2 player and won decisively, 8-4, largely thanks to her powerful serve and forehand. She then met Corning's No. 1 player, whom she had lost to twice earlier in the season in tie-breaker sets. This time, Gutierrez lost again, 7-9, in another close match. Her coach noted that Gutierrez had the tools to win but struggled with consistency when pressured by her opponent.

In doubles, Gridley's No. 2 team of Mangan and Jones played Las Plumas' No. 2 team and lost 0-8. Several points went to deuce, but the outcome was not in their favor. Meanwhile, the No. 1 doubles team of Gutierrez and McGilvery defeated Oroville's No. 2 team 8-4. However, their momentum was short-lived, as they fell 1-8 to Orland's No. 2 team in the next round.

Despite the losses, Coach Robert McDowell expressed immense pride in her players' growth over the course of the season.

"I am very proud of the courage and tenacity of the 5 girls on the Gridley Varsity Tennis team. Through this season they have grown in strength, technique and understanding in their tennis. I'm looking forward to coaching them next year and to coaching the boys this spring," said McDowell. ★



Gridley High Girls Tennis Team. Pictured from top left are Shawnacy McGilvery, Isabella Gutierrez and Brooke Jones. Bottom from left, are Ali Khan and Aubrey Mangan. Photo by Robert McDowell



# Gridley Titans Football

## Titans 10U Topple Thunderbirds



Titan Rey Solorio adds an extra point to the scoreboard for the 10U Titans. Photo courtesy of Rhonda Andoe

By Jason Davis

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley Titans were home this past Saturday, to take on Las Plumas Jr Thunderbirds.

The Titans coming off a bye, came in 6-0 and the Jr. Thunderbirds came in at 5-1.

The Titans got the ball first and after three plays, they were on the board with a touchdown run by Boss Davis. Gridley's offense put up five touchdowns on Saturday.

With touchdowns by Boss Davis (2), Ashton Hospers (1), Morgan Ruggirello(1) and Adrian Thao (1).

The Titans also had a player reach the end zone for the first time when Rey Solorio ran in an extra point Saturday.

The other extra points were scored by Jesse Delgado and Julian Camargo.

The Titans defense, like in past weeks, was too much for Las Plumas, holding the Thunderbirds

to zero points and only a handful of first downs. Morgan Ruggirello had an interception, and Quentin Ontiveros had a forced fumble recovered by Ruggirello.

The Titans close out the regular season this Saturday against the Central Valley Jr. Falcons in a battle of the unbeaten at 3 p.m. There is also a first seed playoff spot on the line this Saturday. The first playoff round will be the weekend of Oct. 25. ★



The 10U Titans defense put a wall the Jr. Thunderbirds could not penetrate. Photo courtesy of Rhonda Andoe



Ashton Hospers making a run for a touchdown. Photo courtesy of Rhonda Andoe

## 12U Titans Lose to Las Plumas



The 12U Gridley Titans faced the 12U Las Plumas Thunderbirds and were defeated 36 – 0. Photo courtesy of Rhonda Andoe

By Aaron Lumsden

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** -The 12U Gridley Titans faced the 12U Las Plumas Thunderbirds this past weekend

and were defeated 36 – 0.

The Titans struggled to find any consistency during the game and were outperformed by the Thunderbirds. The loss puts the

Titans record at 5 – 2 on the season.

The Titan's will face Central Valley, at home, this upcoming weekend for the regular season finale. ★

## Titans 8U Down Thunderbirds

By Dustin Terrel

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The 8u Gridley Titans hosted the Las Plumas Jr. Thunderbirds on Sunday and were unable to come away with a victory, losing 20-26.

Kanon Buzzard had a great game running the football, rushing for 3 touchdowns, Emmett

Burns added a PAT kick and Jax Terrell recovered an onside kick.

Captains for this game were No. 69 Xander Beum, No.15 Adrian Vazquez, No. 85 Briar Carter and No. 11 Knowledge Bracy.

The 8u Titans host the Central Valley Jr Falcons on Saturday Oct. 18, come show your support! ★

## Titans 14U

By Randall Huff

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - This past Sunday the 14U Titans had a home game against the last Plumas Jr Thunderbirds. The Titans unfortunately came up short in a loss to the Thunderbirds.

The Titans look forward to getting better and closing it the season with a big win next weekend. They close the season out with a home night game against the Central Valley Jr Falcons. The game is at 7 p.m. on Saturday the 18. Come out and support the kids. ★

## California Prepares for Extreme Weather Swings as New Water Year Begins

### California Department of Water Resources News Release

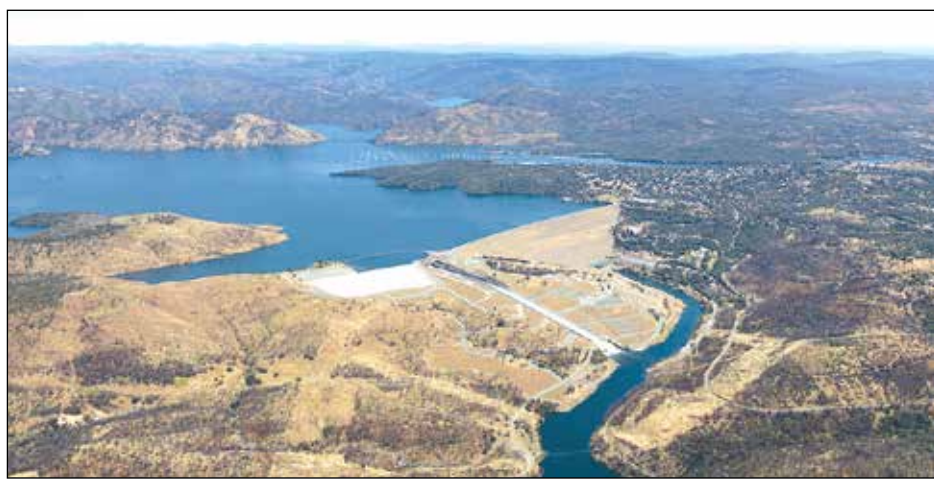
**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - While California's climate has always swung between dry and wet conditions, the past five years have proven what climate science has predicted: California must be prepared for extreme weather events of all kinds, even simultaneous drought and flood conditions.

As the new Water Year gets underway, Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is currently 109 percent of average for this date, however there is uncertainty about conditions this winter. The latest outlook from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center shows a 71 percent chance of La Niña conditions this fall, decreasing to a 54 percent chance in December through February. La Niña events have historically resulted in more dry than

wet years, but research also suggests that even as the climate grows hotter and drier overall, the precipitation that California does receive will arrive in stronger storms, increasing the risk from flooding.

"There is no such thing as a normal water year in California," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "Just in the past two winters, deceptively average rain and snowfall totals statewide masked the extremely dry conditions in Southern California that contributed to devastating fires as well as flood events across the state from powerful atmospheric river events. California must be ready to respond to emergencies from droughts to floods to fires."

Last winter, extremely dry fall conditions in Southern California fueled the destructive Eaton and Palisades fires just weeks before the typical peak of atmospheric river storm activity in



An aerial view shows high water conditions at Oroville Dam located at Lake Oroville in Butte County, California. Photo taken May 20. Photo courtesy of California Department of Water Resources.

California. The Department of Water Resources, alongside the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, Caltrans, the California Geological Survey and the California Conservation Corps worked around the clock to protect downstream communities and watersheds as part of the state's largest watershed protection mission to keep hazardous material from contaminating local water supplies and waterways.

Extreme flooding will

remain a critical concern moving into this water year as a warmer atmosphere drives more moisture through more moisture storms. The Department of Water Resources flood operations staff will be holding meetings with emergency response personnel across the state in the coming weeks to make sure the state and communities are prepared to respond. The Department of Water Resources has over 4.3 million sandbags and 191 flood

fight materials containers pre-positioned for quick deployment across the state if needed.

"The past decade has clearly demonstrated the need to prepare for extremes," said State Climatologist Dr. Michael Anderson. "A dramatic flood year in 2023 was followed by two years with large spatial disparities. While our water supplies are in a good position heading into the new water year, we will be watching

closely for dry and wet extreme conditions that can pose hazards statewide."

California is also starting this water year with more groundwater data than ever before, helping groundwater sustainability agencies and communities monitor conditions in their region to promote long-term sustainability and protect drinking water supplies against the impacts of climate change. Over the course of 2024, the state received average precipitation, helping sustain natural and managed recharge efforts after the exceptionally wet 2023. These last three years (2023, 2024, and 2025) have seen continued increases in groundwater storage.

California's water year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2026 and is the official 12-month timeframe used by water managers to compile and compare hydrologic records.

For more information on California's current hydrological conditions, visit <https://cww.water.ca.gov>. ★

# Hey California!



The 2025 Statewide Special Election is **NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>**.



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Person



Vote-By-Mail  
Ballot

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE! - USE IT.**